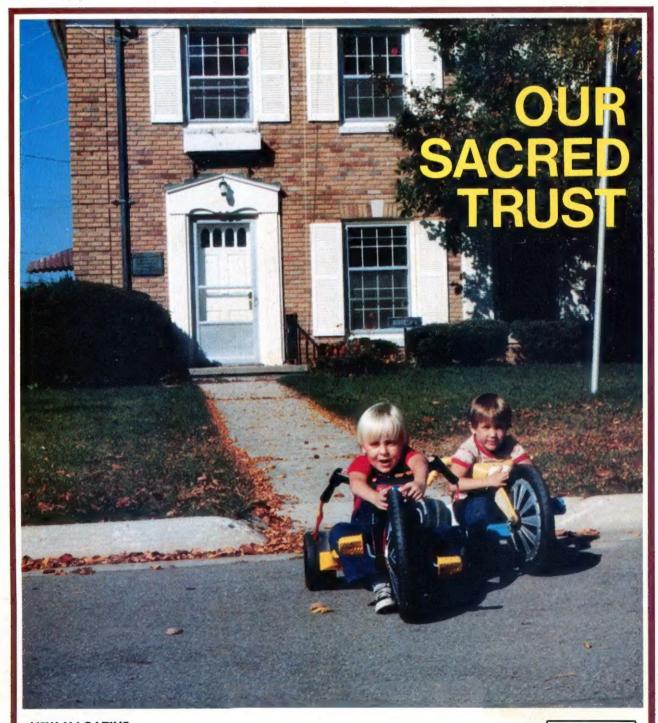


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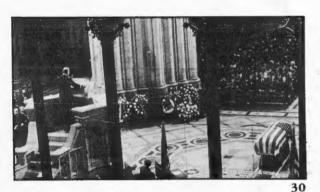


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Cover

The VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., is indeed "Our Sacred Trust" because it is where the children and other survivors of many departed VFW comrades and sisters are cared for in a homelike, family atmosphere that encourages them to develop into self-reliant, productive adults, ready to accept their responsibilities of citizenship when they leave. The story of the Home, the photos accompanying it and the cover photo are by Sue Woodard, a member of the Home's staff.



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## MAIL CALL

#### Children Were Helped

From 1854 to the 1920s, the Children's Aid Society placed homeless youngsters with families in the West as part of the "Orphan Train" movement and we are trying to reach them or their descendants. Thousands of them were rescued from the streets of New York and sent to Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Texas, becoming good citizens and fine parents.—Edward M. Lamont, President, Children's Aid Society, 105 E. 22nd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

#### **Seeks Equator Souvenir**

In 1937 while serving on the Old Lex, CV-2, the queen of the flattops, we went on the Amelia Earhart search and crossed the equator at the 0°-180° and had a combination Shellback and Golden Dragon initiation. Could anyone help me find one of these or let me know where I could get both the Shellback and the Golden Dragon certificates?-Robert S. Weldon, RR 1, Box 1b, Liberty, Miss. 39645.

#### Seeks Disabled Vets

Red Lobster Inns is committed to non-discrimination and affirmative action in employment. It is the policy of Red Lobster to seek and employ qualified individuals without regard to race, creed, color, age, sex, religion or national origin. It is also our policy to take affirmative actions to employ and advance qualified handicapped, as well as qualified disabled veterans and Vietnam Era veterans. Red Lobster cur-

(See Mail Call page 12)

#### To Atomic Veterans

The U.S. General Accounting Office, an agency of Congress, is currently reviewing the methods used in recording radiation exposure doses for military personnel who participated in nuclear weapons tests at the Nevada test site in the mid-1950s. If you have any specific knowledge of the methods that were used, contact Robert J. Baney or William D. Brooks, U.S. General Accounting Office, Room A2-2200, 270 Coporate Center, Germantown, Md. 20874.



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TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans, TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.

TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through

education in patriotism and construc-tive service to the communities in which we live.

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# WASHINGTON WIRE

• News Affecting You •

#### **VetsGram**

#### LEGISLATIVE

S. 349 PROVIDING FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF FINAL DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS HAS BEEN PASSED BY THE SENATE AND REFERRED TO THE HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IT IS CALLED THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW ACT. RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK DONE BY THE VFW AND OTHER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS IN REPRESENTING VA CLAIMANTS AND TO DISCOURAGE ATTORNEYS FROM REPRESENTING VETERANS AT THE INITIAL APPLICATION, THE BILL'S AUTHORS RETAINED THE \$10 CEILING ON ATTORNEYS' FEES UNTIL AFTER A CLAIM HAS BEEN DENIED BY BVA. ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING CLAIMANTS IN FEDERAL COURT ACTIONS WOULD BE ALLOWED A MAXIMUM FEE OF \$500, WITH VA ADMINISTRATOR'S APPROVAL. IF THE CLAIMANT AND ATTORNEY HAVE A CONTINGENCY FEE AGREEMENT, THE FEE WOULD BE LIMITED TO 25% OF ANY PAST DUE BENEFITS AWARDED. SIMILAR LEGISLATION WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE IN THE 96TH CONGRESS, BUT DIED WHEN THE HOUSE FAILED TO ACT. CURRENT VFW RESOLUTION 775 SUPPORTS JUDICIAL REVIEW.

\* \* \*

IN RECENT TESTIMONY BEFORE HVAC'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ON AGENT ORANGE AND OTHER HERBICIDE EXPOSURE IN VIETNAM, VFW EMPHASIZED VA INABILITY TO BEGIN STUDIES MANDATED BY PL 96-151 NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO. NO PLAN HAS BEEN COMPLETED FOR A SYSTEMATIC AND COMPREHENSIVE STUDY. NOR HAS A PLAN OR FUNDING BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR A STUDY OF THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES, INSECTICIDES AND CERTAIN MEDICAL DRUGS ON THE VETERANS. IT ALSO WAS POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRALIA IS ADJUDICATING APPROXIMATELY 70% OF HERBICIDE AND INSECTICIDE-RELATED COMPENSATION CASES IN FAVOR OF ITS VIETNAM VETERANS AS WELL AS PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR THEIR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN. VFW SUGGESTED THE TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING CERTAIN PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION AND MEDICAL CARE FOR AFFECTED VETERANS.

\* \* \*

VFW WINS REPEAL OF ROYALTY PAYMENTS. HARD WORK BY NATIONAL OFFICERS FROM COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ON DOWN AND LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS IN MANY STATES CARRIED THE DAY. BEFORE ADJOURNMENT, CONGRESS PASSED AND CLEARED FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4441, WHICH INCLUDES AN AMENDMENT BY SEN. EDWARD ZORINSKY (NEB.) FOR HIMSELF AND SENS. STROM THURMOND (S.C.) AND DENNIS DECONCINI (ARIZ.) TO EXEMPT NON-PROFIT VETERANS' AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS FROM PAYING ROYALTIES TO COPYRIGHT HOLDERS FOR CERTAIN PERFORMANCES.

HERE IS AMENDMENT'S EXACT TEXT:

"'THAT SECTION 110 OF TITLE 17 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE IS AMENDED; (1) BY ADDING AT THE END THEREOF THE FOLLOWING NEW PARAGRAPH: '(10) NOTWITHSTANDING ANYTHING IN PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING IS NOT AN INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT: PERFORMANCE OF A NON-DRAMATIC LITERARY OR MUSICAL WORK IN THE COURSE OF A SOCIAL FUNCTION WHICH IS ORGANIZED AND PROMOTED BY A NONPROFIT VETERANS' ORGANIZATION OR A NONPROFIT FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT INVITED, BUT NOT INCLUDING THE INVITEES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS, IF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE PERFORMANCE, AFTER DEDUCTING THE REASONABLE COSTS OF PRODUCING THE PERFORMANCE, ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES AND NOT FOR FINANCIAL GAIN. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION THE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OF ANY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY OR SORORITY SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED UNLESS THE SOCIAL FUNCTION IS HELD SOLELY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR A SPECIFIC CHARITABLE PURPOSE.'''

VFW UNDERSTANDING IS THAT POSTS WILL NOT HAVE TO PAY ROYALTIES WHEN LIVE MUSIC IS PERFORMED IN POST HOMES AFTER THE LAW'S EFFECTIVE DATE IF THE FUNCTION IS ONLY FOR VFW AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS AND ALL PROFIT AFTER PAYING ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSES IS USED FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES ONLY.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JAMES R. CURRIEO HAS WRITTEN THE THREE SENATORS VFW THANKS FOR THEIR AMENDMENT AND TO THE CONFERES WHO APPROVED ITS PASSAGE. THEY WERE SENS. MATHIAS AND LAXALT AND REPS. KASTENMEIR, SCHROEDER, FRANK, RAILSBACK, BUTLER AND SAWYER. NO PUBLIC LAW NUMBER OR EFFECTIVE DATE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED YET.

#### SERVICE

A MICHIGAN VETERAN HAS WON MORE THAN \$19,000 IN BACK PAY AFTER A FEDERAL COURT FOUND HIS EMPLOYER FAILED TO REINSTATE HIM IN HIS FORMER JOB AFTER HE RETURNED FROM SERVICE. KENNETH CHALTRY HAD BEEN AN ANNOUNCER FOR WGON IN MUNISING. THE COURT HELD THE ORIGINAL OWNER AND THE PRESENT OWNER OF THE RADIO STATION WERE JOINTLY LIABLE FOR DAMAGES.

COST SAVINGS PROVISIONS IN VETERANS' BENEFITS WILL PENALIZE VETERANS. ONE IS THE USER FEE OF A HALF OF 1% FOR NEW VA HOME LOANS. EXEMPTED ARE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS. FEE AMOUNT AVERAGES \$285. ANOTHER IS CHANGING EFFECTIVE DATE FOR REDUCTION OF BENEFITS BECAUSE OF A CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY STATUS TO THE END OF THE MONTH IN WHICH LOSS OCCURS RATHER THAN END OF THE YEAR. EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 1983, COMP RATES WILL BE ROUNDED DOWN TO NEXT LOWEST DOLLAR INSTEAD OF CLOSEST DOLLAR WHEN COLA RATES ARE AUTHORIZED. THIS RULE ALSO WILL BE APPLIED TO THE COLA HIKE IN NON-SERVICE CONNECTED PENSION RATES NEXT JUNE.

STATE COURTS NOW CAN DIVIDE MILITARY RETIRED PAY IN DIVORCE CASES AND TREAT DISPOSABLE MILITARY RETIRED PAY AS PROPERTY. THE LAW LIMITS THE AMOUNT PAYABLE TO A FORMER SPOUSE TO 50%. PAYMENTS ARE LIMITED TO MARRIAGES OF A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS DURING WHICH THE MILITARY MEMBER WAS ON ACTIVE DUTY. CHAMPUS ENTITLEMENT IS EXTENDED TO A FORMER SPOUSE WHOSE MARRIAGE LASTED AT LEAST 20 YEARS WHILE MILITARY MEMBER WAS IN SERVICE. GARNISHMENT IS PERMITTED. BUT THE LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE DIVISION OF RETIRED PAY. THAT'S LEFT UP TO THE COURTS. FULL DETAILS ARE IN WASHINGTON ACTION REPORTER.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

A 15-POINT VFW NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRIORITY GOAL PROGRAM HAS BEEN ADOPTED. IT APPEARS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE AND IN THE NOVEMBER WASHINGTON ACTION REPORTER. EACH OF THE POINTS IS BASED ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 83RD NATIONAL CONVENTION LAST AUGUST AND SETS FORTH CONCISELY THE VFW POSITION ON ISSUES CENTRAL TO U.S. DEFENSE.

RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS PREPARED BY ARMY CHIEF IN GERMANY SHOW INADEQUATE HOUSING FOR U.S. TROOPS AND VIRTUAL MAKESHIFT FACILITIES FOR THEM TO WORK IN. LEAKING ROOFS, FALLING PLASTER, POOR HEATING, CORRODING WATER HEATERS ARE COMMOMPLACE. MAINTENANCE OF TANKS BY TROOPS SHIN DEEP IN MUD. THESE ARE NOT WORST-CASE PHOTOS. SUCH CONDITIONS PREDOMINATE THROUGHOUT COMMAND. NEW FACILITIES EXCEPTION NOT RULE. CONGRESS HAS WANTED OUTSTANDING FORCES IN GERMANY, BUT HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO PAY.

CHEMICAL WARFARE IS REPUGNANT TO AMERICANS. BUT SOVIETS ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH IT IN AFGHANISTAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE EVIDENCE SHOWS. FURTHER, SUCH WEAPONS ARE AVAILABLE TO FIELD COMMANDERS FOR USE WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM MOSCOW. TO DISCOURAGE KREMLIN, U.S. HAS DISAVOWED FIRST USE, BUT MUST BE ABLE TO RETALIATE. ABILITY IS QUESTIONED. NIXON HALTED PRODUCTION IN 1969 SO NOW EXISTING STOCKS ARE AT LEAST 13 YEARS OLD. LEAKING HAS FORCED DESTRUCTION OF MUCH OF STOCKPILE. ARMY HAS DEVELOPED BINARY MUNITION, SAFE TO STORE AND TRANSPORT. SENATE PASSED BY NARROW MARGIN FUNDS FOR ITS PRODUCTION, BUT EMOTION-CHARGED HOUSE REJECTED THEM. ISSUE NOW BEFORE A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.



Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger meets with Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currieo, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron.

## Good News Highlights Veterans Day Observance

By James R. Currieo Commander-in-Chief

In this first message from the Command Post since the VFW National Convention, it is heartening to report the good news that veterans' programs remain intact in the recently Senatepassed Veterans Administration budget.

That veterans have emerged from the bruising budget battle virtually unscathed underscores the validity of the 1982-1983 theme of Strength Through Service.

VFW strength prevented the feared erosion of VA programs as the budget was being drawn up. VFW success in working with Congressmen will enable this organization to provide even greater service in the coming years to veterans, their survivors and their dependents.

What better time to bring the good news of the budget to VFW members than in the month during which Veterans Day occurs. VFW members, of course, need no reminding that the VFW led the fight to have Veterans Day restored to Nov. 11, the date of Armistice Day in 1918 that later became the day on which veterans of all wars, not just one, are remembered.

Appropriately, too, the period of Nov. 10 to 14 this year is being set aside as a National Salute to Vietnam Veterans, the ones whom many so-called Americans reviled for performing the very service their own government asked them to undertake.

At long last the Vietnam veterans will receive the honors due them, even if belatedly.

Coincidentally, 1982 marks the 65th anniversary of America's entry into World War I, the final day of which, as noted earlier, developed into Veterans Day. It is coincidental because veterans of 1917-1918 experienced many of the disillusionments Vietnam veterans did—doing so much for so many for so little recognition, with contempt from some who stayed home and who scorned them as "suckers."

The debt the nation owes its veterans is succinctly expressed by President Reagan in his Veterans Day

"Veterans Day affords all Americans a special opportunity to honor the



Commander-in-Chief Currieo studies the names of the Americans killed in the Vietnam War enshrined on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. A workman is putting the finishing touches on a panel. Dedication is scheduled for Nov. 13.

deeds of those who sacrificed so much to answer the call to arms during the life of this great country. On this day, our nation is united in tribute to the valiant men and women who have unselfishly given of themselves to serve in our Armed Forces.

"Words alone are insufficient to express our lasting gratitude and admiration to those whose patriotism and courage have ensured our peace and freedom despite threats of tyranny and aggression. Significant disruptions in their lives and other personal hardships have been the price that our Nation's veterans have paid so that the rest of us might enjoy the fruits of justice and liberty."

A portion of that debt was paid this month when service connected disabled veterans received a 7.4% increase in their compensation checks. So did DIC recipients and those granted aid and attendance, housebound allowances and their dependents.

This didn't happen automatically. It took long, hard work by the VFW to counteract the Senate proposal to limit the increase to 4% and then only to those rated 70% or more.

A \$300 burial allowance will be paid for the burial of "unclaimed" wartime veterans' bodies to keep from being interred in a potter's field.

Money has been added to the VA budget for medical research benefiting all Americans. Medical school affil-

iations will continue. More medical care personnel and nurses are being added. Money has been included for the nursing scholarship program and the first to receive one has begun her studies.

The 1983 VA budget continues the flat rate of increase for money to treat veterans in hospitals and in outpatient facilities.

More beds will be available in community nursing homes.

VA hospital beds will become a contingency for the Defense Department in case of an emergency.

Treatment of Agent Orange-caused diseases will be enhanced with the addition of several million dollars to the VA budget and VFW scrutiny has found VA medical centers are resolving differences between doctors and veterans in treating disabilities.

Construction of the new hospital in Minneapolis and a clinic in Cleveland is expected to begin in 1984. The VA will go ahead with a new outpatient clinic in Los Angeles and an addition to the clinic in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

There are other improvements in programs, not the least of which by any means are the directives Congress has passed mandating the Department of Labor to help veterans find jobs.

Now the VFW's job is to see that the 1983 VA budget continues to provide enough money for veterans' programs. In this way, the VFW will gain Strength Through Service.



Roudebush receives a memento of the ceremonies from Terrence L. Johnson, center director.



The Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, Cold Spring Road Division, Indianapolis, the older of its two units.



VFW Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute, right, with Commander Byron Brunker, of Indiana Ex-Prisoners of War, left, and Commander Robert Carey, of the VFW Department of Indiana.

# Past Chief R.L. Brunker, of India left, and Comman VFW Department Roudebush Honored

The name of Richard L. Roudebush has added luster to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the U.S. House of Representatives and the Veterans Administration.

He served in Congress for 10 years, was Commander-in-Chief of the VFW in 1957-58 and was VA Administrator under President Gerald R. Ford.

Now, a VA health care facility has been named in his honor the Richard L. Roudebush Medical Center, appropriately in Indianapolis, the capital of his native Indiana, the state he served for so long in Congress.

VA dignitaries, such as Administrator Robert P. Nimmo, Terrence L. Johnson, the center's director, and A. Zamberlan, the VA regional director, were on hand for the Aug. 29 ceremonies.

Charles VanMatre, director of Indiana's Department of Veterans Affairs; Reps. Elwood H. Hillis (Ind.), a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Andrew Jacobs, Jr. (Ind.); two former governors of Indiana, Otis R. Bowen and Edgar Whitcomb, and Dr. Steven C. Beering, dean of Indiana University School of Medicine, joined in the ceremonies.

VFW officials were there too, such as Adjutant Gen. Howard E. Vander Clute and Indiana's Department Commander Robert Carey and several others as well as representatives of other veterans' organizations.

A highlight of the program was the

presentation of a large oil painting of Roudebush done by Thomas M. Nielsen, a Virginia artist whose work was commissioned by the VFW as a gift to the newly-named Richard L. Roudebush Medical Center.

The active military service was represented by the 74th Army Band from nearby Fort Benjamin Harrison, the fort's Color Guard and Lt. Cynthia Schroeder, the soloist who sang the National Anthem at the opening of the ceremonies.

For the Richard L. Roudebush Medical Center, the occasion was a triple celebration. The older of its two divisions observed the 50th anniversary of its first patient admission and its other division marked the 30th year since its first patient was admitted.

The Richard L. Roudebush Medical Center provides acute medical, surgical, psychiatric and neurological inpatient and out-patient care and has 553 beds. Included at the center is a 60-bed nursing home care unit.

The rededication proved the accuracy of the prophecy of the Indiana congressman, Louis Ludlow, whose 1930 bill led to the center's construction:

"The Indianapolis hospital is being built not for the immediate future but for decades stretching far into the future."

Now that hospital's future will be linked with the name of an Indiana native son and a VFW stalwart.



This is the painting of Richard L. Roudebush by Thomas Nielsen and given to the Indianapolis VA Medical Center by the VFW at ceremonies renaming the center for Past Commander-in-Chief Roudebush.

## VFW IN ACTION









- 1. Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo joins in honoring Texas's Ladies Auxiliary President Betty Ross. With them is Department Commander John F. Simmons. The event was held at 8787 in Austin during its 35th anniversary.
- 2. A plaque and National Citation are presented to members of the Baltimore. Md., Police Helicopter Unit who dropped Buddy Poppies over veterans' graves at Loudon Park National Cemetery on Memorial Day. Holding the awards are F/O Douglas M.F. Womack and Lt. Arthur Iones as F/O lack C. Turley looks on. In rear are VFW officials Charles A. Kreatchman and Leon Derrickson.
- 3. Nat. Rep. John Senk accepts a \$1,753 check for the VFW National Home from Richard McGough, a member of Post 1753, Las Vegas, Nev., a private donation from money raised by "McGoo's Golf Tourney," an annual fun event. With them are Nancy McGough and Post Commander William Kelly.
- 4. Alice Atkinson, a WWI nurse and oldest member of Post 7318, Southern Pines, N.C., was one of the many special guests honored on Labor Day by the Post. With her are Post Commander Vernon Hall, N.C. National Home Chairman David Callihan and N.C. Sr. Vice Commander Jack Ragan.



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\*According to James J. Julian, M.D., Hollywood Physician to the Stars, and world-renowned author, "In my opinion, nearly everyone whose diet is deficient can improve memory, become more alert, and make better decisions if you get the nutrition your body would utilize for this purpose. It is possible to notice the difference in days

TOTAL HEALTH MAGAZINE published a full feature article on the combination of safe allnatural amino acid and vitamin elements in Memory Powertabs food supple-Mind +

ment formula and how they can help men and women of all ages. The title of the article is . . . "NASA and the Smart Pill."

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#### National Headquarters

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

General Orders No. 2 1982-83 Series

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NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMITTEE:
CHAIRMAN: Daryl Reeder, Post 3449, Wakeeney, Kans.;
VICE CHAIRMEN: Wayne Andersen, Post 4755, Seward,
Neb.; Raymond D. Brennan, Jr., Post 8950, W. Lanham
Hills, Md.; Lloyd L. Lindquist, Post 3173, Anaheim, Calif.;
and J.B. Smith, Post 5376, Calhoun, Ga. MEMBERS:
Eugene Karban, Post 7980, Milstadt, Ill.; Lenas Weisheit,
Post 1114, Evansville, Ind.; Palmer Jensen, Post 7639,
Bancroft, Iowa; Angus MacLeod, Post 6782, Detroit,
Mich.; Herman J. Droege, Post 2184, Mehiville, Mo;
Gerald W. Gilgenbach, Post 8847, New Bavaria, Ohlo;
Donald R. Hisek, Post 5969, Deadwood, S.D., Clarence
Brunner, Post 659, Manitowoc, Wis.; Gerard T. Morin,
Post 9935, Sanford, Maine; John J. Burnett, Post 6818,
Cambridge, Mass; Joseph Povich, Post 5479, Dunellen,
N.J.; Domenick Volpe, Post 546, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Barl
Stock, Jr., Post 3275, Fort Plain, N.Y.; Robert J. Hollis,
Post 6764, Mechanicsburg, Pa.; James Graham, Post
2444, Ft. Myers, Fla.; Joe Bietz, Post 680, Lexington, Ky.;
Joseph Guidry, St., Post 3121, Gretna, La.; Otha M. Kerr,
Jr., Post 5266, Morristown, Tenn.; John Stanners, Post
3969, Marshall, Texas; Andrew J. Martin, Post 10018,
Tacoma, Wash.; Floyd Hunsaker, Post 4797, Afton, Wyo.,
Daniel A. Huff, Post 9365, Wasilla, Alaska; George Wiggins, Post 5313, Scottsdale, Arlz.; Joseph A. Borello, Post
768, Los Angeles, Callf.; Louis Balasanos, Post 10276,
Honolulu, Hawali; Arnold Howard, Post 9036, New
Plymouth, Idaho; Bill Updegrove, Post 7349, Kinsley,
Kans; William Breen, Post 1002, Fallon, Nev.; Leonard G.
Wiggins, Post 5318, Scottsdale, Arlz.; Joseph A. Borello, Post
7398, Magna, Utah; Earl E. Yates, Post 1, Denver, Colo.;
and Dean Hinkle, Post 8832, Roundhead, Ohle
NATIONAL BUDDY POPPY COMMITTEE:
CHAIRMAN: Dominic J. Romano, Post 7330, Oakville,
Conn.; VICE CHAIRMAN; James L. Booth, Post 2216,

NATIONAL BUIDDY POPPY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN Dominic J. Romano, Post 7330, Oakville, Conn.: VICE CHAIRMAN: James L. Booth, Post 2216, Staunton, Va.; Billie Dorris, Post 3079, Mathis, Texas; Joseph T. Gumo, Post 1582, Inwood, N.Y.; Omar Kendall, Post 673, Jasper, Ind.; and John Uram, Post 1040, Lynn-wood, Wasii. NATIONAL BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: John J. Stang, Post 3147, LaCrosse, Kans.; VICE CHAIRMAN: Joseph A. Scerra, Post 905, Gardner, Mass.; MEMBERS: Ted C. Connell, Post 9192, Killeen, Texas; Thomas Dudzik, Post 3613, Martins Ferry, Ohio; William J. Parley, Post 7654, Ashland, Pa.; Walter C.

(See General Orders page 25)

#### MAIL CALL . . .

continued from page 2

rently operates units in over 328 separate locations throughout 35 states. As such, we are eager to solicit referrals from local Posts of your national organization.-Jeffrey S. Campbell, Manager, National Employment, Red Lobster Inns of America, P.O. Box 13330, 6770 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32859.

#### Thanks N.J. VFW S.O.

I want to say thanks to the VFW and my New Jersey State Service Officer, John Woodbury III, and the VFW Newark, N.J., office staff for all their time and effort in handling my claim. After a year-long battle, it was denied by the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington on Sept. 13. It was for an upper respiratory problem I have had since my 19 months' combat duty in Vietnam from August, 1967, to April, 1969.—Theodore M. Homanick, 208 Midland Ave., Kearny, N.J. 07032.





#### TRUE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS



The United States Congress on June 20, 1782, approved the American Bald Eagle as the principal feature of our great Seal of The United States. We Americans have since adopted the Bald Eagles as our symbol of independence, power, and courage. President Roneld Reagan has proclaimed 1982 as the Bicentennial of the American Bald Eagle, Join the United States in celebrating this partiotic event with this beautiful hat or shirt and help spread Americanism. The hat is a deep navy blue; the patch is a beautifully detailed full-color Seal of the United States. The hat is adjustable to fit all sizes. The heavy-weight, 100% cotton, high-quality T-shirt is navy blue with the full-color U.S. Seal printed directly into the germent; it will not come off. This shirt is a beautiful work of art that will rank at the top of any collection. Specify size, S-M-L-XL. The hat is \$9.50 ea, plus P.&H. Order one or two items and pay \$2.75 P.&H. (Order any combination of 3 or more items then pay only \$8.50 per item, and \$4.50 P.&H.)

Full satisfaction guaranteed or your money back, This is a special, limited-edition offer.

BLT ENTERPRISES P.O. Box 6631-V11, Burbank, CA 91510

### VFW Service Office Success Story

George A. Yarbrough was a staff sergeant in Co. C, 186th Infantry when he was shot in the throat while in action on Hollandia on April 23, 1944.

He received immediate first aid, but was not attended by a medical officer until 25 hours later. He never lost consciousness and was taken to a field hospital where a tracheotomy tube was inserted through the wound.

After his arrival at a hospital in the U.S., he was found to have tuberculosis in the left upper lobe. The X-ray revealed the bullet in the lower right lung. Diagnosis: TB far advanced, with cavitation on the left. He was discharged from the service on Oct. 14, 1944, at McCaw General Hospital, four years and four months after entering.

The veteran was in and out of the VA hospitals until the late 1950s. In the early 1960s he attended barber college. During this time the veteran's rating had been up to 100%

and down 70-50-30%.

On Sept. 12, 1980, Yarbrough reopened his claim for an increase with the assistance of Oregon Department Service Officer Gerald A. Christensen. While conducting a thorough review of the VA claims file, Christensen discovered that Yarbrough had never been rated below 50% prior to a rating action in 1967 which reduced it to 30%.

Since under the authority of Title 38, U.S. Code, a rating held for 20 years or more is protected and may not be reduced, Christensen contended that the veteran was entitled to the restoration of the 50% rating retroactive to 1967 with recoupment of the compensation due him since that year.

The Veterans Administration recently adjudicated this claim and concurred with Christensen. The veteran was paid \$34,008.80 as a result of the retroactive entitlement.

## Helping Jobless Vets Wins VFW Awards

One way more unemployed veterans can be put to work is by rewarding those who help find them jobs, the VFW believes.

So several years ago the organization began an awards program for individuals, groups, organizations and Public Employment Service offices with notable records in this area.

In recent years, however, the number of nominations submitted by Departments has been declining.

Commander-in-Chief Bob Currieo's theme this year of Strength Through Service emphasizes assistance to veterans and from this it follows that those who care about the plight of jobless veterans should be recognized.

The prestigious National Employment Award reflects much positive attention not only on the recipients but also on the nominating Department. Recognition of an individual or organization for excellence says the recipient possesses the qualities that made this nation great and that organi-

zations such as the VFW appreciate and encourage others to acquire those qualities.

As in past years, consideration for the award is based on qualifications for the category under which the nomination was submitted.

For the local office of the Public Employment Service category, the National Organization Award is based on quantity of service to veterans.

The National Employer Award goes to the employer for outstanding policies and achievements in hiring, promoting and retaining veterans with emphasis on utilization of disabled veterans' skills.

Known as the Special Award for Distinguished Service, the final category includes individuals, groups or organizations which have made unique, unusual, exemplary or outstanding contributions in the development of job opportunities for veterans.

Persons interested in submitting (See Helping page 51)

Sept. 30, 1982



DIV. I Alfred Kovalcin



DIV. II Robert Carey Indiana



DIV. III Leroy Marlewski Wisconsin



DIV. IV Thomas E. Ryan Maryland



DIV. VI Dan D Francis Colorado

### VFW Establishes Virgin Islands Posts

The VFW has expanded into the Virgin Islands, the organization's last frontier as the only location in the world of American settlement that had no VFW representation.

Recently Assistant Adjutant Gen. Edward L. Burnham and Director John J. Senk, Jr., of Post and Program Development officiated in the institution of two new Posts.

They are 10656 on St. Thomas and 10674 on St. Croix, two of the three most populous of the islands which have been a U.S. dependency since 1917 when the U.S. bought them from Denmark for defense purposes. The islands had been Danish territory since 1672.

American citizens since 1927, the inhabitants of the islands are subject to U.S. conscription and Senk says the veteran population is 8,000, a little less than 10% of the population.

One of the principal VFW goals in the Virgin Islands is to train two service officers to assist island veterans with Veterans Administration claims and benefits and to process them through the VA in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Senk said.

"For several years, we have had mandates for establishment of a VA outpatient clinic in the Virgin Islands," Senk said. "Now veterans have to fly to Puerto Rico for any VA medical treatment and reimbursement is always a question."

Senk said the VFW in the Virgin Islands is in a good position to assist veterans and to improve their conditions because the Judge Advocate of Post 10674, William Harvey, is a senator in the islands' legislature and the Commander of Post 10656, Pershing T. DeGraff, Jr., represents on the islands their delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Ron deLugo.

Until the VFW came to the Virgin Islands, one other veterans' organization was the only one there and it has been declining in membership and effectiveness, Senk said.



Director John Senk, Jr. and Assistant Adjutant Gen. Edward L. Burnham, wearing VFW caps, at the institution ceremonies of Post 10656 on St. Thomas. Seated is Commander Persbing T. DeGraff, Jr. Additional Picture is on page 60.



DIV. V

Paul Renard

Louisiana

DIV. VII
Clarence J.
Arsenault
Maine



MJ. Ornelos Wyoming



DIV. IX
Frank Risewick
Nevada



DIV. X Joe DeCosta Alaska

## Council Hears of VFW Firm Condition

was summed up by Ouartermaster Gen. J. A. Cheatham when he told the National Council of Administration consecutive year of a budget surplus.

He added this is based on the assumption that the membership at the end of 1982-83 will be equal to the total at the end of the 1981-82 year.

The Council approved the appointment of Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph Lambardo to the Awards and Citations Committee and the reappointment of Charles Kinney as its rate agency," he said.

The VFW's firm financial condition chairman, as well as the appointment of Past Commander-in-Chief Arthur J. Fellwock to the VFW-PAC.

Washington Office Executive Direc-Oct. 2 in Kansas City this is the 21st tor Cooper T. Holt told the Council there have been fewer cuts in veterans' programs than in any others in the federal government.

> "We are holding our own," Holt said, adding that the elimination of the burial allowance for non-service connected veterans was the largest cut.

"We are concerned about retaining the Veterans Administration as a sepa-

In addition, he said, the VFW is opposed to "mainstreaming" of nonservice connected veterans, a practice that would place them in care facilities other than the VA's and cutting out compensation payments for those rated 10%.

Fifty-six percent of VFW-PAC endorsements went to Republicans, and 44% to Democrats in the 1982 federal elections, he continued. Total receiving VFW-PAC backing reached 296 in the House and Senate, with \$148,000 expended in campaign contributions of \$500 each.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

First row, Inspector Gen Ralph Rohwedder, Past Commander-in-Chief Arthur J Fellwock, Adjutant Gen Howard E Vander Clute, Jr Vice Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in Chief James R Currieo, Sr Vice Commander-in Chief Clifford G Olson, Quartermaster Gen J A Cheatham, Judge Advocate Gen James C McKee and Chief of Staff Roger Sellers Not shown, Surgeon Gen Philip J Begley and National Chaplain Austin J Henry Second row, Edward Papantonio, Dist C, Julian Brisendine, Dist 8, LuVern Kinter, Dist 11, Paul Jolovich, Dist 12, Mel Stanley, Dist 14, Herman Charles Phillips, Dist 10, Stacey Foster, Dist 7, Walter C. Luksta, Dist B, Thomas Dudzik, Dist D, John G. Simmons, Dist 3, Leonard Williams, Dist 15, Paul Savage, Dist F, James H. Willis, Dist 5, and Stanley G. Powell, Dist. 2. Third row, Paul R. Phillips, Jr., Dist. 4; Donald Scott, Dist. 1, Warren H. McCoy, Dist. 17, Donald E. Sears, Dist. 14, Lawrence E. Henderson, Dist 6, TH Burns, Dist 9, Robert Larson, Dist E, Ronald G Lee Dist 1, Kenneth Robbins, Dist G, Albert V Palumbo, Dist. A, Donald O Webster, Dist. 16, and Charles H. Cloud, Jr., Dist. 13

# May Their Deeds Never Fade

#### BY WILLIAM M. LESSEL

Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur popularized the words of the British Army ballad, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away," when he addressed a joint session of Congress more than 31 years ago.

Years before, however, President Herbert Hoover wrote MacArthur:

"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away. Physically, they will, of course. But the deeds of men live forever after them."

On Veterans Day, it is appropriate to recall some of these deeds as a memorial to America's heroes.

The award of the Medal of Honor is such a memorial. Dating from the Civil War, it is the United States's highest accolade for military valor. It is awarded by the President in the name of Congress to one who has "distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty."

Who are some of those who have achieved this nation's greatest distinction?

On Armistice Day, 1921, the Medal of Honor was pinned to the Flag-draped coffin of the American Unknown Soldier by President Warren G. Harding during services at Arlington National Cemetery. A special bill passed by Congress permitted the award to an Unknown as "typifying the gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, of our beloved heroes who made the supreme sacrifice in the World War." Medals of Honor were awarded also by special legislation to the Unknown Soldiers of Belgium, Great Britain, France, Italy and Romania.

Alvin C. York, then a corporal but who later became the immortal Sgt. York, received the Medal of Honor for his deeds of Oct. 8, 1918, in France. After his platoon had suffered heavy casualties, York assumed command and led seven men in a daring assault on an enemy machine gun nest that had been pouring deadly and incessant fire on the platoon. York's spectacular marksmanship and audacious leadership completely demoralized the enemy and the nest was taken, together with four officers, 128 men and several guns.

Audie L. Murphy, near Holtzwihr, France, on Jan. 26, 1945, jumped on a burning tank destroyer and manned its machine gun against two companies of attacking enemy infantry supported by six tanks. Alone and exposed to fire from three sides, Murphy, then a second lieutenant, was wounded in the leg but continued firing and brought the attack to a halt, thereby saving his company from encirclement and destruction.

Cornelius H. Charlton was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic actions of June 2, 1951, in Korea. During an attack on a heavily defended enemy hill position, Sgt. Charlton assumed command of his platoon and led three charges that carried it to the crest of the ridge. There he observed a remaining stronghold on the reverse slope and although severly wounded, charged it alone, routing its defenders with a devasting fire. He sustained further wounds which resulted in his death.

Gerald O. Young, a captain, was commanding a helicopter in a rescue team to aid ground troops in imminent danger of death or capture. After two helicopters had been shot down by heavy enemy weapons, Capt. Young was advised to abandon the rescue mission. Ignoring intense enemy fire and great personal danger, he nev-

ertheless chose to remain until all survivors were aboard. As it took off, his helicopter was destroyed by ground fire and burst into flames. Disregarding serious burns, Capt. Young rescued one of the wounded and then evaded enemy fire for 17 hours, declining to accept rescue until hostile forces had withdrawn.

Yes, any war is grim, ugly and tragic. This assessment is especially applicable to the Vietnam War veterans. In addition to the physical hardships and pain they endured, the memory of the cruel experience of coming home to a nation that was more hostile than friendly still lingers. No parades, no bands, no signs welcomed them home.

Salt was added to that painful memory during the spectacular welcome the hostages from Iran received in Washington on Jan. 27, 1981. As the "freedom motorcade" neared its destination at the White House, one of the returnees held up this simple sign, "Thank You."

Noting that incident on television, I recalled an experience I had in downtown Chicago at the end of World War II, more than 37 years ago.

I met a young veteran loaded down with his duffel bag. He was lost and bewildered. He asked for directions to the nearest depot. I decided to show him the way, so I could lavish my appreciation on this one young veteran for all the battles he fought in defense of my country. (I was beyond military age.)

As we walked together, my desire to speak grew stronger, but my ability to do so waned. I made the mistake and said nothing more than, "So long, Bud. Get home safe and good luck."

My own failure 37 years ago to express my feelings towards this veteran of World War II has been a lifelong regret.

However, I find some consolation in the thought that as a result of having failed that one veteran, I now have the opportunity to say to all veterans:

"Thanks for fighting my battles for

On this Veterans Day, may every citizen seek out as many veterans as possible to shake their hands and thank them sincerely for fighting our nation's battles, protecting our lives and property and keeping America free.

# Legislative Priority Goals, 1982-83

#### VETERANS ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

That we prevail upon the Congress of the United States to budget and appropriate funding for the Veterans Administration which will adequately maintain the integrity of the VA hospital and medical care system and the entitlement and benefit programs. Further, that the Budget Committees of both houses practice government in the sunshine and permit congressionally chartered veterans' organizations to appear before them to present testimony with respect to the VA budget.

#### CONTRACTING OUT WITHIN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The Administration has indicated its intent to fully pursue contracting out of jobs now held by federal civilian employees to private contractors in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, as amended. The VFW opposes the contracting out for services in the Veterans Administration hospital and medical care system.

#### VETERANS' PREFERENCE

That veterans' preference be strictly enforced in all federal departments and agencies and that if a department

or agency is abolished by "sunset," that preference eligibles be given bumping and retreating rights. Furthermore, that the veterans' preference be observed and strengthened in all federal and state employment programs.

#### VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

That veterans' employment programs should be addressed as a national concern and that these programs should come under the direct responsibility of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment (ASVE). That Congress vigorously pursue the proper implementation and funding of all legislation enacted to assist unemployed and underemployed disabled veterans and Vietnam veterans.

#### **HERBICIDES**

That Congress enact legislation to (a) expedite the completion of studies on the health problems that are attributed to herbicide exposure; (b) liberalize the criteria for disposition of herbicide related claims, and (c) provide fee basis genetic counseling related to herbicide exposure.

#### **AGING VETERANS**

We urge Congress to provide the

necessary funding and staffing for a comprehensive geriatric and extended health care program to include expansion of the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers (GRECCs) as authorized by Public Law 96-330 and, further, that funding for state nursing home care facilities and per diem rates be increased.

#### COLA FOR FEDERAL BENEFICIARIES

We support full cost-of-living increases for all federal beneficiaries as indicated by the Consumer Price Index, particularly the compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and pension programs. We oppose in the strongest possible terms the selective capping of COLA visited only upon federal civilian and Armed Forces retirees by the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1982.

#### NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Continue to pursue the establishment of an open national cemetery in every state to augment the regional national cemeteries and oppose the elimination of upright headstones now furnished by the Veterans Administration.

# Security and Foreign Affairs Priority Goals, 1982-83

- In support of our mandate of Peace Through Strength, we sustain our support for President Reagan's START proposal which calls for a sharp, mutual reduction of nuclear weapons to equal, balanced and verifiable levels. In furtherance of this mandate, should hard evidence be uncovered of Communist manipulation of the "freeze-now-count-later" movement, the Department of Justice must seek out and prosecute such manipulators.
- With the Soviet Union's enormous lead in conventional forces, we
- call for a buildup of America's nonnuclear land, sea and air power so that a mutual reduction in nuclear forces will not permit the Soviet Union the freedom to move anywhere in the world undeterred.
- As a non-negotiable matter of national honor, we call upon the U. S. to sustain maximum economic and diplomatic pressure, for as long as it takes, against those nations and movements who are hindering the search for our prisoners of war and missing in action. We also call upon the Administration and the Congress to speak out
- forcefully on this issue, and that no further trade agreements be negotiated with the Soviet Union and likeminded nations until such time as an accurate accounting and/or return of our POW/MIAs has been effected.
- The VFW supports a substantial strengthening of the Joint Chiefs of Staff system which will assure that the new organization that emerges will be able to provide sharp, timely and significant military advice to the President, the National Security Council and the Secretary of Defense.

(See Goals page 24)

#### GOALS . .

Continued from page 22

In recognition of the important war and peace missions of the United States Coast Guard, we call for that level of funding necessary to allow the Coast Guard to refurbish its fleet and continue to provide the full range of services it now provides.

We request the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to adopt as an immediate strategic objective of the U.S. the exploration of U.S. space technology which will advance the safety and well-being of America and her citizens.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars calls upon the United States to support a national strategy of peace through strength and to this end has joined the Coalition for Peace Through Strength. We reserve to ourselves, however, the right to determine how best to advance the objectives of this coalition.

As the core of our national security program, we reassert and reconfirm our position for freedom—and against Communism-and we will so inform the President and members of Congress. In order to advance our position for freedom, we call for expanding the current 6.3% of our Gross National Product devoted to our defense to a target of 8%. We also call upon the President and the Congress, in the interest of national security, to cease the exportation of all materials and technology to the Soviet Union which, in the future, may be used against us. Also, any exports of nonstrategic items to the USSR must be for cash, except in the case of widespread famine, and must be carried in U.S. ships.

With respect to Central America, the Caribbean and South America, we call upon the Congress to reassert publicly and clearly the continued validity of the Monroe Doctrine as a proper guide for U. S. policy. We will combat the spread of Soviet/Cuban influence in this area by every political, economic and diplomatic means available to us, including the use of the Central Intelligence Agency. The School of the Americas must be kept alive as a common training experience for military leaders of Latin American nations and we must continue and increase the additional training of such leaders

here in the United States. Finally, America, by its actions as well as its words, should both draw the line against further Communist encroachment and helpfully and creatively extend the hand of freedom and dignity to our Latin American neighbors.

We call upon the President and the Congress to continue the present policy of no trade with, or diplomatic recognition of, Communist Cuba for as long as it remains the policy of that Communist regime to retain the many harsh injustices now extant in that unfortunate land and while they continue to have their armed forces serve under the strategic direction of the Soviet Union. Further, under no circumstances should the United States grant concessions affecting complete and undiluted U.S. control and use of Guantanamo Bay as a naval base of supreme strategic, as well as political, importance. In order to insure that the Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement of 1962 is being honored by the Cubans, we suggest the continuation of SR71 intelligence gathering overflights of Cuba to insure accurate intelligence gathering. Should the Soviet Union move dramatically against the United States, or our vital interests worldwide, we must promptly and effectively blockade the Soviet bastion of

We urge our government to reestablish relations on a governmentto-government basis with the Republic of China on Taiwan and insist on and obtain from the government of the Peoples' Republic of China (Communist) an assurance it will not use force in an attempt to place the Free Chinese under its control. An agreement between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the United States should be entered into to assure their continued freedom and sovereignty and all other previous agreements between our two governments must continue in effect and have the force of law. In order to help the Republic of China on Taiwan remain free, we must continue to allow it to purchase modern weapons, equipment, and technology from the United States in the quality and quantity necessary to maintain a strong military force capable of defending the Republic from any aggression.

Only when a bona fide peace treaty has been agreed to between North and South Korea, should any withdrawal of U.S. military forces from the Republic of Korea even be considered.

Freedom Fighters—principally in small arms and anti-tank and anti-helicopter weapons—must be sharply increased, and U. S. humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees in neighboring Pakistan must be promptly provided in amounts and categories needed.

The bottom line of U. S. policy towards Africa, specifically towards Namibia and the Republic of South Africa, must be directed towards assuring that these nations do not become Moscow's last dominos on the African continent, and that the United States tend to its clear and present national interests; i.e., strategic minerals and open sea lanes of communication and commerce.

We urge the United States to sustain the on-going total diplomatic/economic effort to block construction of the Soviet natural gas pipeline to West Europe unless substantial liberties are promptly restored to the Polish people, to include the Solidarity Movement.



National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee: First row, Washington Office Executive Director Cooper T. Holt, Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson and Adjutant Howard E. Vander Clute. Second row, Director Phelps Jones, Leslie M. Fry, Chairman H. R. Rainwater, Morton Fromm, and Larry W. Rivers. Absent, Ray R. Soden.

#### GENERAL ORDERS . . .

Continued from page 12

Luksta, Post 9115, Cicero, Ill.; Herman Charles Phillips Post 5225, W Memphis, Ark.; Kenneth Robbins, Post 85, Broderick, Calli; and Leonard L. Williams, Post 9400, Sunnyslope, Ariz NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN Paul Wampler, Jr., Post 833-DC, Washington, D.C.; VICE CHAIRMEN: Ray Allen, Post 1242, Chicago, Ill: Al Feher, Post 5171, Cumberland, Ky., John Jackson, Post 3632, Tempe, Arlz., and Thomas J. Lynch, Post 7508, Old Bridge, N.J.; MEMBERS James Pat Harris, Post 7190, Murphysboro, Ill.; John Walker, Jr., Post 1120, Indianapolis, Ind.; Assad Allle, Post 147, Livonia, Mich.; Tony Thomas, Post 246, Minneapolis, Minn.; William Young, Post 2926, Cleveland, Ohio; Carl Decker, Post 5716, New Berlin, Wis, Newall S. Isaacs, Sr., Post 2931, Georgetown, Del.; Edward J. Richard, Post 7409, Mattawamkeag, Malne; Edwin D. Gosnell, Sr., Post 10158, Reisterstown, Md., Frank J. Tucker, Post 10339, Boston, Mass.; Charles A. Duffett, Post 5938, Jersey City, N.J.; John Lava, Post 601, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Paul McGann, Post 354, Philadelphia, Pa.; Edward N. DuCharme, Post 10011, Lymansville, R.I.; James C. Gates, Post 96, Montgomery, Ala.; Fred Suddarth, Post 4455, Pine Bluff, Ark.; John M Carney, Post 4643, Satellite Beach, Fla.; Dr. Charles Andrews, Post 5262, Canton, Ga; Weldon Talley, Post 6640, Metairle, La.; Robert Miskelly, Post 1142, N. Wilkesboro, N.C.; Donald Prochaska, Post 1201, Ponca City, Okla, Lee D. Finley, Post 6734, Greenville, S.C.; Clifford Williford, Post 3160, Norfolk, Va.; Jerry A. Williams, Post 7636, Hayward, Calif., John L. Bessaw, Post 6356, Heriong, Gallic, Henry S. Kuniyukl, Post 4951, Honoiulu, Hawall, Robert M. Howell, Post 7255, Derby, Kans; Claude Shipley, Post 9211, Reno, Nev; Rudolph F. Otero, Post 5610, Espanola, N. M.; James G. Rosendahl,

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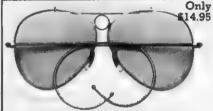


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(See General Orders page 39)

# Service Stressed

mphasizing building VFW "Strength Through Service," Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo told National Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen at Kansas City and Washington meetings, Sept. 12 and 13:

"If we don't provide service, every Post should turn in its charter."

Currieo called attention to a recently published VFW pamphlet— "VFW In Action"—setting forth concisely VFW programs stressing community involvement and urged that they be distributed to new and prospective members to provide an overall view of the VFW.

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Clifford G. Olson and Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Billy Ray Cameron joined him in singling out service to veterans, their families, survivors and communities as a paramount VFW concern.

The contents of the pamphlet are reproduced here, while the VFW Priority Goals set at the Committee meetings in Washington appear elsewhere.

#### AMERICANISM

The VFW National Americanism Department prepares and distributes in excess of 1 million pieces of patriotic literature each year to schools, libraries, civic and government institutions and the general public. This information is mailed free of charge. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is second only to Sears Roebuck in the sale of U.S. Flags.

#### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A study of the top 153 entries in the annual National Community Activities Recordbook contest for VFW Posts and Ladies Auxiliary units reveals that 1.750 million manhours and \$1.5 million were expended on community service projects during the reporting year.

The 153 Posts studied were the nation's best in community service.

Obviously, therefore, all 9,700 VFW Posts do not perform to the same level of excellence as that reached by the national winners. Nevertheless, by extension of the figures cited in the study, it can be said conservatively that VFW Posts and their more than 7,500 Ladies Auxiliaries contribute approximately 107 million manhours and \$91 million to community service projects each year.

#### SAFETY

The VFW National Safety Department sponsors six major programs. They are Drive-to-Survive, an educational drivers' training program which has graduated 880,000 persons since 1973; Lite-a-Bike reflectorized taping program that has taped more than 29 million bicycles since the program's inception in 1963; Drug Abuse; Bicycle Safety; Hunter Safety and Recognition of Public Service employees, such as policemen, fire fighters and the like.

#### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Baseball, bowling, football and soccer are among the major sports programs the VFW sponsors for the nation's youth. More than 1,100 Boy Scout Troops are sponsored by VFW Posts as well as numerous Sons of the VFW and Junior Units. The VFW also is a sponsor of Junior and Special

Olympics, plus other youth programs.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States conducts an annual broadcast script writing contest for high school students called the Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. More than 250,000 students entered the contest last year, which culminated in the awarding of \$650,000 in scholarships, savings bonds and other prizes at the local and state levels and \$32,500 in scholarships to the first through sixth place winners in the national competition.

#### VETERANS SERVICE

In addition to the service performed by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries throughout the nation, the VFW maintains a network of accredited service officers in every VFW Post, Veterans Administration Regional Office in each state and in Washington, D.C. These service officers advise, process and represent veterans and their dependents with claims before various government agencies, such as the Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, Civil Service and Department of Labor.

From Jan. 1, 1981, to Jan. 1, 1982, the VFW National Veterans Service Office staff handled 163,278 claims and won



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· (Additional photo on page 41)

favorable rulings on 147,866 claims, totaling \$573,321,118 returned to veterans and their families.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOLUNTEER SERVICE (VAVS)

For the period beginning October 1,

1980, and ending September 30, 1981, a total of 11,885 volunteers donated 1,404,669 hours, a record which translates into a dollar value of \$3,722,372.

VFW monetary contributions to VA Medical Centers, gifts for veteran patients, blood donations, vans for the handicapped and transportation costs for VFW volunteer workers are minimally estimated at an additional \$3 million.

#### VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries raised and contributed over \$250,000 to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

# THE VIETVET Fact and Fiction



ho were the men and women who served in Vietnam?

A profile of the troops who were there has been passed along by Stan Horton, director of the Houston Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, to give non-Vietnam veteran VFW members fac-

tual data on Vietnam veterans in case they want to join in VVLP's effort to aid these younger veterans.

Horton's material, based on information from a wide variety of professional sources, contrasts facts about those who served in Southeast Asia with fiction that has gained popularity among some seg-

ments of the public.

During the Vietnam Era from Aug. 5, 1964, to May 7,1975, more than 9 million served on active duty. This includes troops in the U.S. From Aug. 5, 1964, to Jan. 27, 1973, the period of direct U.S. involvement, 8.744 million were on active duty.

But 3.403 million served in the Southeast Asia Theater of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia or as members of flight crews based in Thailand or in the Navy in the South China Sea.

From Jan. 1, 1965, to March 28, 1973, there were 2.594 million troops within South Vietnam. Another 50,000 were there between 1960 and 1964 and 246 were in those early years killed as a result of hostile action. Between 1 million and 1.6 million were in combat, provided close combat support or were fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.

Only about 20% of those stationed in Vietnam were in the infantry, armor or artillery where they were engaged in ground combat with the enemy.

Vietnam service was seen by 7,484 women, most of them, 6,250, nurses. Eight were killed. Women comprise, however, 197,513 of the Vietnam Era veterans.

Americans killed in Vietnam totaled 57,704, but 10.446 died as a result of "non-hostile" factors. Of the 303,704 wounded, slightly more than half required hospitalization.

The war left 75,000 severely disabled and 23,214 of these 100% disabled. Limbs were lost by 5,283 and 1.081 wound up as multiple amputees.

Missing in action totaled 2,528 at the end of the war and the remains of only 80 have been returned by Vietnam.

Only a fourth of the enlisted men in the combat arms were draftees, but they accounted for 27% of the combat deaths—15,404.

A racial breakdown reveals that 9.7% of the Vietnam Era forces were black, but 10.6% of those who served in Vietnam were black, while 1% were identified as of other races. Blacks comprised 12.1% of those killed by hostile action, and 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat

Blacks accounted for 14.6% of the non-combat deaths.

Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when blacks made up 13.5% of the military age population.

It is not true to say that the U.S. "sent mostly its poor to fight in Vietnam." According to the data, 76% came from the lower middle or working classes; family incomes of threefourths were above the poverty level, and half the men were from middle income backgrounds. However, only 23% had fathers in professional, managerial or technical occupations.

It is accurate to say troops in Vietnam were the best educated army the U.S. has ever fielded. Nearly 85% had high school educations or more when they entered service, compared with 64% of those who served in Korea and 45% of the World War II veterans.

Those who served in Vietnam were younger than their WWII counterparts. Average age was 19, compared with WWII's 26. Two-thirds of those killed in Vietnam were 21 or younger.

A widespread misconception among Americans is that a disproportionate number of Vietnam Era veterans received less-than-honorable discharges.

Fact is that 97% were discharged honorably and of the minuscule minority whose "bad paper" was for desertion, only 5% were in units in Vietnam. During the entire Vietnam Era only 24 men were convicted by courts-martial of desertion to avoid hazardous duty.

Feeling among 78% of Vietnam veterans is that they received a worse reception on their return home than veterans of other wars and fewer than half "feel they received a very friendly reception; almost one-fourth feel even their own family and close friends did not provide a very friendly reception, and 63% of the general public agrees that the treatment of Vietnam veterans has not improved over the last decade."

These data are from "Myths and Realities: A Study of Attitudes Toward Vietnam Era Veterans" by Victor Fischer, published in 1980.

Fischer found also that 91% of Vietnam veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat "are proud to have served their country" and 66% said they would serve again if called on. The same number reject totally any notion of guilt; only 14% feel "it is shameful what my country did to the Vietnamese people."

In 1981, Newsweek Magazine reported that far from becoming aimless drifters unable to adjust to a normal way of life, more than 80% of Vietnam veterans are leading productive, normal lives.

Nor is divorce any more of a problem for Vietnam veterans than it is for others in the 30 to 34 age group. In 1979, the VA made the only comprehensive study of marital failure among Vietnam veterans. It was found that 7.3% of them, or 613,000, were divorced.

Notions of Vietnam veterans' proneness to violent crime, drug addiction, suicide, failures in the workplace and being "walking timebombs" are shattered, too.

A 1980 VA study showed that Vietnam Era veteran deaths in civil life since the end of the war totaled 21,-000, a figure that includes 5,000 who served also during the Korean War. Total suicides of men between 20 and 34 for 1968-1978 do not even equal the



number of Americans who died in Vietnam, as some allege. No reliable data exist on the veterans' suicide rate.

As for crime and the veteran, a study showed that Vietnam veterans comprise 4.5%, or 13,000, of the inmates of state prisons. Broken down, this is .38 of 1% of all those who served in Vietnam. Add to this all the Vietnam Era veterans and the percentage rises to .43 of 1%. Of federal prison inmates, 20% are veterans, though of which war is not indicated.

Of the minority of troops in Vietnam dependent on narcotics, 90% kicked the habit after coming home, a study showed. Those who continued their addiction represented only 1.3% of all Vietnam Theater veterans.

The employment picture is brighter, too, than it has been pictured. Of the Vietnam Era veterans from 30 to 34, 90.6% were employed as of last March, as were 92.7% of those between 35 and 39. Broken down, their jobs are professional, technical, managerial or administrative, 31.7%; other whitecollar jobs, 11.9%, and bluecollar, service and agricultural occupations, 56.4%. These figures came from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Perhaps a fourth of Vietnam veterans exhibit varying degrees of stress, the "post-traumatic stress disorder," according to a 1981 People article quoting a Vietnam War veteran-psychologist. However, a 1955 National Academy of Sciences study found that a third of WWII veterans suffered from VEW some neurotic problems.



The flag-draped casket of Gen. Omar N. Bradley in the National Cathedral in Washington recalls the service to the nation rendered by the veterans. The Americans killed and still missing in Vietnam will be remembered there during the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

# They Join the Greats

he imposing Gothic National Cathedral in Washington has a special meaning to veterans, but during the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans, Nov. 10 to 14, it will acquire an even greater significance.

For 48 hours the cathedral will be the scene of a candlelight vigil when the names of the 58,000 Americans who died during the Vietnam War or still are listed as missing will be read, with a special religious service scheduled for 11 a.m., Nov. 14, for all veterans.

Site of the vigil in the cathedral will be the Bethlehem Chapel and the War Memorial Chapel, one of the structure's many acknowledgements of service to the nation.

Special bays in the cathedral's nave, the main portion of its interior, honor

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. President Woodrow Wilson and Adm. George Dewey are buried there.

Through the Episcopal cathedral's 75 years, national leaders have received much attention. One of the earlier televised funerals was that of Dwight Eisenhower. Heads of state gathered in the nave for the final ceremonies after a nightlong vigil by thousands of Americans.

President Reagan and other dignitaries attended a multi-faith service for Anwar Sadat hours after the Egyptian Leader's assassination. The cathedral's attention to national heritage in less spectacular ways—each Sunday a different state is honored at services—may be a reason many call it the National Cathedral.

For many years an annual Massing of the Colors was held on the cathedral grounds. A prominent military leader, often Gen. John J. Pershing, was a principal speaker on those occasions. In the late 1920s the officiant was "Maj. James E. Freeman, Bishop of Washington."

The Massing of the Colors, in cooperation with the Military Order of the World Wars, was phased out at the cathedral in the late 1960s after each of the major military services established its own annual commemorative service.

Each year now a special Sunday service in mid-October honors the Navy. The Marines celebrate on the Sunday nearest the Marine birthday in November and the Army on the second Sunday in November. The Air Force

service is the first Sunday in May. Frequently, choruses from the service academies and bands or choral groups provide music for the service. The chief chaplain for the particular branch is often the preacher.

The War Memorial Chapel, open daily to visitors, is the cathedral's center of attention for those who have served in the military and naval forces.

The waist-high carved oak screens dividing the chapel from the rest of the south transept were dedicated in 1965 "in memory of the fallen members of the 28th Marine Regiment, Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima."

Other chapel furnishings are memorials to individual veterans given by their families. The chapel's stained glass windows are designed around the theme of freedom and sacrifice. The supreme sacrifice of Christ upon the cross dominates the central window, and in the three windows the artists have incorporated planes and tanks of World War II, along with scenes of the fight for freedom from Biblical to modern times.

To the left of the altar is a large needlepoint tapestry with seals of all 50 states as large as dinner plates. The official seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard also adorn the tapestry. Above the altar hangs a powerful sculpture of the suffering Christ, the work of British artist Steven Sykes. The brass halo simulates cannon shells, while the thorns of cast aluminum suggest barbed wire.

Another memento of Anglo-American ties is the needlepoint in the chapel. The kneelers were worked by English women, including Queen Mother Elizabeth, and given in thanksgiving for American help in World War II.

A small carved wooden statue of St. George, England's patron saint and a symbol of early soldiers, adorns the altar rail.

One part of the cathedral of interest to veterans but now dormant is the National Roll of Honor designed shortly after World War II to contain the names and service records of "all who served their country in the armed forces."

When the enrollment passed the 100,000 mark, it became evident that

the cathedral, however noble its intentions, had assigned itself an almost impossible task. The bound volumes make up one wall of the War Memorial Chapel. A Department of Defense source estimates that the service records of the 20 million men and women eligible since the beginning of World War II would fill the entire interior of the catherdral with paper.

Plans for the cathedral funeral of the last of the five-star generals, Omar N. Bradley, were made long before his death in April, 1981, so long, in fact, that cathedral staffers "rehearsed" scores of military personnel through

the years. Gen. Bradley's body lay in state for 24 hours in the cathedral where both his son and grandson had been baptized.

Many national and international leaders have been part of the cathedral in life and in death, but this year during the Veterans Day period Americans from all segments of society, from privates to generals, who gave "their full measure of devotion" in Southeast Asia will receive the recognition so long denied them by the very people they defended.



American dead and those still missing in Vietnam will be remembered at the National Cathedral in Washington during the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans, Nov. 10 to 14, in Washington.

# Our Sacred Trust

BY SUE WOODARD

sirens screamed until flashing lights silenced them. Heat as from a furnace choked the air. The crackle of flames licked ever upward. A stinging smell of burning permeated the senses. Hysteria finally subsided into convulsing sobs. A young woman, crumpled on the ground with four frightened children, stared in horror at what had been her home.

The fire marshal ruled the blaze accidental. Smoking on the couch, possibly. The reason was unimportant to the widow and her youngsters.

First she had almost lost him in Vietnam only months before the withdrawal. They had begun their life after his recovery, building a family and home. Now this—and all was gone.

He had been an active, involved person. Taught Sunday school, worked hard at his job—and he was a VFW member. This affiliation was to be the key in the survival of his family through this crisis and in their launch toward a better future.

By virtue of his membership in the VFW, his wife and children were able to move to the VFW National Home campus near Eaton Rapids, Mich., two months after his death. A homestudy investigation by the professional National Home child care staff had shown no better alternative for maintaining this family as a whole than the services offered at the Home's facility.

After a period of adjustment, mother and children were comfortable and secure in their suburban-type brick home. They live today just as any other family does—cooking, cleaning, going to school and church, and being part of the neighborhood community that is the VFW National Home. With help, they have begun to look ahead once again.

The National Home has kept open its doors to widows and children of deceased and disabled American veterans since 1925. That year, the VFW dream of taking care of needy dependents of its members became a reality.

Hundreds of children have been provided loving care since those early beginnings. They have "graduated" from the Home to become doctors, ministers, nurses, teachers, servicemen—good, solid U.S. citizens.

The National Home's success was underscored last summer at an alumni reunion, when 150 former residents returned to the place they call home to share remembered experiences of days gone by.

To be eligible for admission to the National Home, a child must have ties with the VFW or its Ladies Auxiliary through the membership of either parent or a custodial grandparent. Brothers and sisters may be admitted together, thereby keeping even large families together rather than splitting them up into foster homes.



The VFW National Home has its own fire department residents and supervised by adults. "That's Increfighters on Nov. 8.



This young resident has hopes of playing in the majors someday.

Eligibility criteria for admission are set forth by the Home's rules like this:

- 1. A child whose parent is deceased or totally disabled, provided the deceased or totally disabled parent is a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- 2. A child whose parent is deceased or totally disabled and the living or non-disabled parent is a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- A child whose parent or grandparent is a member in good standing of

the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the grandparent or grandparents have legal custody of the child.

4. A child whose parent is a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the homestudy investigation by National Home staff reveals that the home situation is not conducive to the physical and emotional health of the child.



ent, manned by professionally trained lible" is featuring the youthful fire



This quiet street could be in Anytown, U.S.A., but it is one of several like it at the VFW National Home.



Basketball is always popular at the VFW National Home.

Children may be referred to the National Home by a VFW or Ladies Auxiliary member who calls them to the attention of the Post Service Officer, by the courts or welfare departments, by child placement agencies or by direct contact to the VFW National Home.

The 50-acre National Home campus's paved roadways are lined with 38 large, brick homes of varying but compatible styles. All are well furnished and have modern conveniences. Many have well-equipped recreation rooms. Each family adds its own personal touch to the "hominess" of the house.

Other buildings, such as the Community Center, provide recreation. A

grocery store is available as are other supportive services. A library features modern learning equipment and a fulltime librarian-tutor aids in the children's education. A dental office, recently outfitted by the Ladies Auxiliary National Council of Administration, provides up-to-date dental care for all residential children. A large swimming pool, renovated by the Military Order of the Cootie, provides hours of fun and relaxation for the children, as well as a learning center for swimming lessons and water safety. Much of the 640 acres is in farm land.

Children are educated in the Eaton Rapids public schools where they are

# Thanks to All VFW Members

As a young child living at the VFW National Home, I was not aware that over 2 million VFW "parents" were giving me love, care and education.

This VFW gift—living for 10 years at the National Home—made it possible for me to go to college, produce TV programs, teach at a college, and learn about communication satellites while earning a doctorate at Harvard.

N ow, as the first National Home graduate to serve on the Board of Trustees (and be elected President by other Trustees), I am trying to say "thank you" for all the National Home gave to me.

Hundreds of others like me have graduated from the National Home and gone on to lead productive lives.

VFW members everywhere make these miracles happen.

On behalf of all graduates and your Board of Trustees, I am proud to say "thank you."

W e still need your belp. Today's children at the National Home need love, care and education more than ever!

Frances Forde Plude

Frances Forde Plude President, VFW National Home Board of Trustees

encouraged to participate in schoolrelated activities, such as sports, chorus and drama. When they graduate from high school, scholarship aid is available for those interested in furthering their education in universities, colleges or vocational schools.

An independent living program provides apartment-style living for selected older teenagers who are preparing to move out on their own. An after-care program eases the difficulty of transition by providing counseling and financial support.

The VFW National Home exists because of the caring men and women

(See Sacred Trust page 58)

# YOU CAN WIN

# GALAXY OF PROPERTY OF







# 1982 - 83 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

By Recruiting 5.. 15... 25.... 40 or 50 New and/or Reinstated Members

## YOU CAN WIN A PRIZE

Recruit 5 Members ... win a prize... or ... continue Recruiting for a higher value prize

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FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS





# MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

Opposite is a full array of prizes you can win for recruiting new/reinstated members. Look them over and then get to work.

Never before in the history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has it been so important to recruit new/reinstated members as it is now.

We launched this all-out campaign for the largest membership gain in VFW history July 1, 1982, and it will end April 30, 1983.

Key to this increase is the new/reinstated member. He or she is the one each one of us in the VFW must reach out to and bring in if we are to record the largest gain in VFW history.

By attaining our goal, we will demonstrate to critics of veterans' programs—whether in Congress or on Main Street—that American veterans are concerned about their rights and entitlements and believe the VFW does the best job for them.

Last year you recruited 175,000 new/reinstated members. This was slightly less than 10% of our total at the end of 1981-82. When 1981-82 closed, we had 1,950,000 members. Of these, 91.59% were continuous members, a record no other organization in the United States can match.

So you see we must get out and recruit more and more new members and reinstate those who have dropped out.

Pick up several booklets of membership applications and prize descriptions. Your Post Quarter-master has them. The rest is up to you. With your help, we will gain Strength Through Service.

#### general rules:

- This program is in effect from July 1, 1982 to April 30, 1983.
- 2 To qualify, all members signed under this program must be new or reinstated members.
- Prizes and/or awards will be shipped directly to the winner provided the certification form on the inside back cover of this Booklet is completed by the proper officers and is received by National Headquarters on or before the redemotion date.
- Booklets shall be deemed valid and redeemable if properly certified by the signature of the Post Commander or the Post Quartermaster and the Department Adjutant.
- Each completed Booklet certifies that you have signed 5 or 10 new and/or reinstated members.

#### how to earn your award:

- Sign the new or reinstated member and collect his or her dues. Make sure the application for membership is complete.
- 2. Give the new member his/her receipt.
- 3. Complete coupon attached to the membership application. . .
- Send or give completed application and dues to Post Quartermaster within seven days.
- When you have recruited 5 or 10 members fill out the certification form on the inside back cover, select your prize and give the completed Booklet to your Post Commander or Post Quartermaster.
- Or keep your completed Booklet, and begin working on another for even bigger prizes.

#### instructions for post commander and/or quartermaster:

- Make sure all applications for membership are complete and the applicant is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- When 5 or ten members are signed you may complete your portion of the certification form and mail the form to your Department Adjutant.
- Make sure the completed coupon, or record of the person signed, remains attached to the Booklet.
- 4. If the member wishes to qualify for a prize in another category retain the certification form until he signs the required number, then complete the certification form keeping the coupons attached, and process as noted above.
- Make sure the new member's card and dues are transmitted within a reasonable time period so that he may start receiving his VFW Magazine and the benefits of being a member.



# Thank You, America!

BY BOB CARY

ey, good luck!"
A pajama-clad World
War II vet waved with
his left hand as the nurse trundled me
out of surgical ward 5-B at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center. The vet's right hand was
immobilized by a plastic tube leading
into his arm from a glucose bottle
overhead.

A Korean War amputee gave me the thumbs up sign from his wheelchair as the rubber tires on the gurney rumbled on the metal threshold going into the elevator. From flat on my back, I watched the red light over the elevator doors flash from 4 to 3 to 2 and the doors slid open. The gurney tires rumbled again as the surgical cart rolled down the long corridor to the operating room.

The last time I had been a hospital patient was at Hawaii's Aiea Naval facility in 1944, courtesy of the 2nd Division, United States Marines, and a mosquito-borne malady called malaria. In a ward filled with scrawny, atabrine-vellowed survivors of Guadalcanal, Tarawa and the Marianas. few of us were aware that somewhere back in the States thousands of VFW veterans from World War I and the Spanish American War were working behind the scenes to create a Veterans Administration to provide medical and other benefits for several million GIs who would soon be returning home, benefits which those older and wiser veterans knew were much easier to obtain when the nation was threatened than after the guns fell silent.

"Hallo!"

I was yanked back to reality by a round, smiling Oriental face topped by a blue surgical cap, which appeared over my right shoulder.

"I am Yue," the face said.

"You are me?"

"No, no, no. I am Doctor Yue. Y-u-e. Yue. I am to give you anaesthetic."

The smiling Dr. Yue had me roll over on my side with my knees raised while he skillfuly administered a spinal injection. A few moments after I straightened out, feeling began to fade from everything south of my belly button.

The thought struck me that waiting for surgery was like the last few minutes before an amphibious tractor hit the beach. Saipan flashed before my eyes ... howling Jap artillery shells shredding coconut fronds ... staccato machine gun fire ... and a parade of faces—grimy faces, bloody faces, faces in pain—that we hauled in mudspattered jeeps to the 2nd Medical Battalion hospital by the old radio station behind Green Beach Two.

The heat and stench of Saipan faded into the clean, quiet atmosphere of the VA operating room. The faces of Dr. David Teasley and Dr. Rich Dobryns appeared by my feet.

"How are you feeling?" Teasley asked. Teasley, Dobryns and the chief



Aerial view of the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center.





LEFT:

Dr. Yoshio Sako (2nd from left) and a highly skilled surgical team perform open heart surgery, one of 170 such procedures completed at the Minneapolis facility last year.

resident, Dr. Robert Gifford, made up the surgical team.

"I'm okay" I said, "but I can't feel anything downstairs."

"Good . . . we are about to begin."

In a way, it was a funny twist of fate that put me there. The Japanese never did knock me out of action, but three 100-pound bags of sand, 37 years later did. At the lumber yard in my home town of Ely, Minn., I had tossed the sacks of sand into the back of my pickup truck and felt something let go as the 60-year-old muscle tissue in my lower abdomen simply gave up. My family doctor, Walt Leino, diagnosed it as a hernia and recommended prompt repairs.

My wife Lil, who keeps track of our financial status, noted that an operation could pretty well fracture our somewhat fragile savings account. As a journalist for 30 years, my income had taken care of the bills, put our kids through school and paid off the house, not much else. On a hunch, I put a call through to Veteran's Service Officer Matty Stukel, a fellow member of Ely VFW Post 2717.

"Matty, have I got any medical benefits?"

"Sure, come over to the office and let's talk it over."

It took only a few minutes to fill out the medical application and have Dr. Leino type up the diagnosis. Two weeks later I received a phone call from Dr. Robert Gifford; an appointment was set up. Subsequently, I drove the 250 miles to Minneapolis, checked in at the Medical Center and was assigned to bed No. 40 in Ward 5-B.

Like most ordinary ex-GIs who live some distance from VA facilities, I had some preconceived notions of what the center would be like, something along the lines of the impersonal atmo-

LEFT:

The surgical team which handled my operation included (1 to r): Chief Resident Dr. Robert Gifford, Dr. David Teasley, medical student Pat Hart, and Dr. Rich Dobryns.

(See Thank You America page 55)

# Profile in Dedication

#### BY SHARON SCHNEIDER

Patricia Atkins is soft-spoken, speaks slowly and carefully, and says with a smile and a wink, "I'm a sleeper." The facade may be sleeping, but the substance is pure determination.

Back in 1950, when she was 20, she stopped to talk with an Army recruiter. She was acutely aware that her parents were disappointed with her lack of career plans. Over her parents' objections, she had quit nursing training midway through the program. Impressed that the Army would give her aptitude tests and a chance to travel, Pat decided to enlist. "The Army gave me an opportunity to be on my own, away from my family, but yet not really alone in the world-I was protected by the system. It was one of the best moves I ever made. I should have reenlisted."

She completed basic training in the Women's Army Corps at Camp Lee, Va., where she learned shooting (she still target shoots) and general defense techniques. Aptitude tests revealed she was most inclined to drafting, but drafting school was full. So, she was assigned to the second choice career—medicine. Because of her prior medical training, she was directly assigned to Ft. Meade, Md., as a medic in the station hospital.

One fateful night, her CO approached her and facetiously asked if she'd like to go to FECOM. The Korean War had begun and within a short time, Pat had her papers and found herself in Japan, nursing GI casualties.



Patricia Atkins is a devoted VFW member.

"We nursed a hell of a lot of frostbite and leg amputees. We couldn't keep the men in dry socks and feet because of all the mud, sleet and snow. Sometimes I had to nurse on the airlifts of wounded GIs from the front lines in Korea to our hospital in Japan. That's when I saw enough of Korea to last a lifetime."

In May, 1952, she met a sweet-talking Georgian at the military club and married him after a short courtship. She concedes it was a terrible mistake. "It's hard to explain the actions of a 22-year-old in a strange country during wartime, never knowing what might happen next."

When Pat's discharge came through in 1953 (after President Truman extended her service by two months), she and her husband spent most of the next 10 years of their marriage travelling from one military assignment to another (he was career Army). At each base, Pat found nursing jobs, but only as an undergraduate nurse, based on her nursing training and medical experience. The pay was barely adequate. The nursing situation was changing and Pat began to think about completing her degree. She also divorced her husband.

About that time, she happened to be (See Profile page 42)

#### GENERAL ORDERS . . .

Continued from page 25

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(See General Orders page 43)



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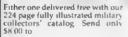
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# America's Black Air Force

BY BERKLEY McCOLLUM

Then President Harry S Truman awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation to the 332nd Fighter group, he was honoring one of the most remarkable outfits in the Army Air Force, an all-black unit that wrote an unusual chapter in American aviation history during World War II.

Prior to 1941, black Americans were barred from the Air Corps, although they were serving in other branches of the military on a segregated basis. The general consensus among most Air Corps leaders was that blacks were not capable of handling the complexities of military flying. This caused considerable controversy.

Pressure directed at the War Department by the black community and a number of white Senators and Representatives finally forced the Air Corps to accept black candidates for flight training.

The War Department announced on July 10, 1941, that it planned to establish a black pursuit squadron composed of 400 enlisted men, 27 pilots and 33 aircraft. The 99th Fighter Squadron would be trained by Air Force instructors at a military airfield being established at Tuskegee Institute, an Alabama black college. Plans also were made to train additional squadrons at Tuskegee.

By late 1941, Tuskegee Army Air Field was nearly completed and the first class of cadets had arrived to begin pilot training. One of the 13 trainees was Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., a former infantry officer, a West Point graduate and son of the Army's first black general. Davis and four cadets won their wings on March 7,

By mid-1942, the goal of training additional pilots and forming the 99th into a fighter squadron had begun to take shape. Shortly afterward, Davis was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and made squadron commander. By that time, a second squadron, the 100th, had been activated at Tuskegee. The second squadron was destined to become the nucleus of the 332nd Fighter Group.

Arriving in North Africa in 1943, the 99th flew its first combat mission during the 12-day campaign against Pantelleria, an Axis-held island in the Mediterranean. When Pantelleria surrendered on June 11, 1943, the 99th had flown more than 100 strafing and bombing missions against the island. By that time, the unit was flying with the 12th Air Force.

Weeks later, the 99th supported the Allied air assault on Sicily. The squadron shot down a German fighter over the island on July 2, 1943. The kill was credited to Lt. Charles Hall, who gained the distinction of scoring the 99th's first aerial victory.

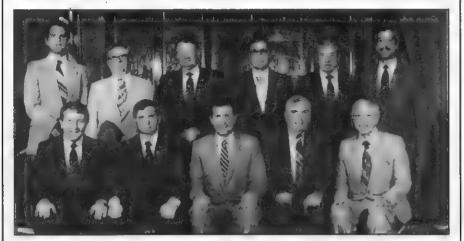
Finally, on Jan. 27, 1944, the 99th Squadron sighted a group of German fighters strafing Allied troops landing at Anzio. The 99th attacked the Germans and shot down five of their planes in less than four minutes. By the next month, the squadron had scored 12 additional aerial victories over Anzio. By that time, the Air Force had sent the 332nd Fighter Group to Italy to evaluate the use of greater numbers of black air units in combat.

Composed of the 100th, 301st and 302nd Squadrons, the 332nd initially flew coastal patrols near Naples. Soon the group was escorting heavy bombers to targets in southern Germany. The group destroyed five Messerschmitts during one of these missions to Munich on June 9, 1944. One of the victorious pilots was Lt. Wendell Pruitt, destined to become one of the 332nd's leading pilots.

Sixteen days later, a flight led by Capt. Joseph Elsberry and Pruitt spotted a German destroyer in Trieste harbor. The planes roared in, raking the vessel's magazine with bullets. The ship exploded and sank. Since the planes had carried no bombs, the Air Force doubted the ship's destruction. However, wing cameras on the flight's P-47s recorded the vessel's destruction. It was the first time a fighter group had sunk a ship solely with machine gun fire.

On June 29, 1944, the 332nd moved to a new base at Ramitelli, Italy. The next day it was re-equipped with P-51 (See America's page 41)

# NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE



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#### America's . .

Mustangs. The 99th Squadron joined the outfit at Ramitelli three days later, making the 332nd the only four-squadron Mustang group in Italy. By that time, the group was flying with the 15th Air Force.

During the following months, the 332nd's red-tailed Mustangs escorted heavy bombers attacking supply centers and munitions plants in Germany, Austria and France. The Red Tails also escorted bombers attacking the Romanian oil fields and strafed enemy airfields, railroads and troop concentrations in Hungary, Yugoslavia and Greece.

By late 1944, the 332nd had shot down scores of enemy planes. Some of the victorious pilots were Lee Archer, Edward Toppins, Joseph Elsberry and Clarence Lester.

Eventually, the 332nd gained considerable respect from bomber crewmen who praised the group's close support on missions to key enemy targets. Many bomber groups frequently requested the unit's protection before flying on long-range missions over enemy territory.

On March 24, 1945, the Red Tails provided part of the escort for bombers making major raids on Berlin. Covering 1600 miles, the mission was the longest ever flown by the 15th Air Force. Reaching Berlin, the Americans were attacked by 25 Messerschmitt 262 jets. Up to that time, the 15th Air Force had scored only two confirmed victories over the highly-rated 262s.

The 332nd shot down three of the 25 jets. The victories were credited to Capt. Roscoe Brown, Lt. Earl Lane and FO Charles Brantley.

A week later, the 332nd shot down 25 enemy planes over Austria. Three of the victorious pilots were Lts. Harry Stewart, Robert W. Williams, and Bertram W. Wilson.

After the war, the 332nd returned to Tuskegee Army Air Field, which was closed in 1946. The 332nd was reorganized and sent to Lockbourne Air Force Base in Ohio. Commanded by Davis, who became a four-star general years later, the group remained at Lockbourne until 1949 when Congressional action spear-headed by President Truman integrated the armed forces.

The pilots of the 99th Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group destroyed or damaged 409 enemy air-craft. They flew 1,578 missions and 15,533 sorties with the 12th and 15th Air Forces. Their decorations included 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Silver Star and 14 Bronze Stars. The cost was 66 pilots killed in action.

Gen. Ira C. Eaker, WWII commander of the American Air Forces in the Mediterranean, praised the pilots of the two squadrons:

"They carried out the missions assigned to them, destroying enemy planes in the air and on the ground. By their efforts and performances, they won a place on the great Air Force team. They came on the hard way."

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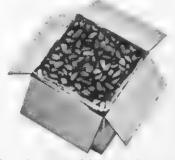
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#### PROFILE . . .

(Continued from page 38)

visiting a military club when she "looked into the bluest, clearest eyes" she'd ever seen. Olan was a just-retired sergeant on his way back to visit a sister in California. Olan and Pat knew immediately they would get married.

Olan was just the opposite of her first husband. He constantly encouraged her to seek new intellectual horizons and to complete her degree. He was her motivator and head cheerleader. After Pat obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing, Olan began prodding her to start on her master's.

Their happiness was short-lived. While Pat was in her second year of a master's degree program in nursing, Olan became ill. Five months after cancer was diagnosed, Olan died.

Pat had nursed him at home, juggling schooling at the same time. Olan had been adamant that she continue her education because he felt it was important that she be self-sufficient once he was gone. Five days before his death, Pat had to admit him to a hospital and she "went to pieces because I knew he'd never come home."

Her life with Olan behind her, and her master's degree completed, Pat concentrated on her nursing career. She felt then, as she does now, that her "mission in life is to contribute as much as I can to nursing, and especially to nursing research. Anything else I can do will be frosting on the cake."

So, at a time when many people start to contemplate their retirement years, Pat started to think about the ultimate, a doctoral degree—partly because it was a logical progression and partly because Olan would have wanted it.



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While she was working on her doctorate and simultaneously working as a nurse educator at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center, she chanced to go to a local VFW Post. She felt immediately comfortable there. Pat points out that she lived on military bases for 12 years and both her husbands were military men.

The Commander of the Post urged her to join, but Pat was too busy with her doctoral studies and full-time employment. Pat says firmly, "I don't join things unless I can actively support them."

Once awarded her doctoral degree in education, Pat joined Post 6158. Pat describes her commitment to the VFW: "I feel a strong bond to my VFW comrades. They know and understand me, accept me. They recognize that I'm Army through and through."

Because Pat was the first female member of that Post, and only the third in all of California's District 17, she did encounter some initial resistance and hostility by a very few members. Always the fighter, Pat held firm to the belief that her professional behavior would change resistance to support.

She had indeed been accepted by her comrades. In fact, shortly after her initiation, she was elected in her first year to the Board of Directors and began her second year as a Trustee in April.

Her active support of the VFW has won grudging admiration from even her loudest former critics. She attends all Post meetings, all District meetings, tends bar once a week, teaches CPR for the Post, and has even paid off her life membership. Alongside the Cross of Malta pin on her cap that she received on initiation, are medals for membership, Poppy sales, service and contributions to the Post cancer fund.

Pat explains her feelings about her country and the VFW:

"A large part of me is patriotic. I would, even now at my age, not hesitate to reenlist if my country needed me. I get a lump in my throat when I see the Flag, tears in my eyes when I hear the Star Spangled Banner.

"Working together with my comrades in the Post gives me the same kind of satisfaction as when I served with them in the military.

"When I stood with these men on my first night of the VFW, and we all repeated the Pledge of Allegiance because we really meant it, I thought, "This is where I belong."

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#### GENERAL ORDERS . . .

Continued from page 39

Racine, Wis, David Wood, Post 1085, Washington, D.C.; Etmer L. Matheke, Post 9845, Germany, Joel Theriault. Post 9389, Caribou, Maine, Charles S. Doane, Post 9619, Morningside, Md., John J. Huemmer, Post 9743, Gray Manor, Md., Rev. John Leonard, Post 639, Malden, Mass. Morningside, Md., John J. Huemmer, Post 9743, Gray Manor, Md., Rev. John Leonard, Post 639, Malden, Mass.; Paul Nicholas, Post 2520, Berlin, N. H.; George Van Allen, Post 7504, Piscataway, N. J., Rev. Albert G., Salmon, Post 6912, Lowville, N. Y., Charles Felienberger, Post 2435. Columbia, Pa., Cardon Johnson, Post 47, Uniontown Pa., Gordon Shewmake, Post 3016, Selma, Ala., Al. DeStefano, Post 4364, Pinellas Park, Fla., Robert H. Lan caster, Post 6605, Warner Roblins, Ga., Hollis Smith, Post 4488. Grenada, Miss.; Conway T. Newsome, Post 2615, Goldsboro, N. C., Jack Naifeh, Post 577, Tulsa, Okla, Eugene H. George, Post 9969, Del City, Okla, Billy P. Randall, Post 6736, Seneca, S. C., R. Frank Sprinkle, Post 6975, Bitsol, Va.; Paul Dickerson, Post 3028, Anawali, W. Va., William R. Johnson, Post 9972, Pearce, Arlz., Hisao L. Masuyama, Post 1961, Gardens, Callif., Donald A. Nikkel, Post 1, Denver, Colo., Guy Mertill, Post 36945, Honoliulu, Hawali, Morris J. Krouse, Post 112, Wichita, Kans; H. L. Haffield, Post 869, Kansas City, Kans; Łuther H. Cook, Post 7686, Alamogordo, N. M., Leon Bennett, Post 1325, Portland, Ore, Lee O. Miller, Post 9450, Pacific Areas, (Japan), Bruce Andersen, Post 3586, Salt Lake City, Utah, Tom Dahlen, Post 1435, Spokane, Wash, Robert T. Merrill, Post 1087, Gera Etalls, Mont; Jack Melban, Post 3797, San Diego, Cauf. Louis G. Feldmann, Post 589, Hazleton, Pa., Ray Gallagher, Post 2755, Redfield, S.D., Robert E. Hansen, Post 295, South St. Paul, Minn, Richard Homan, Post 9666, Sugar Grove, W. Va., and Clyde A. Lewis, Post 125, Plattsburgh, N. Y. NATIONAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE.

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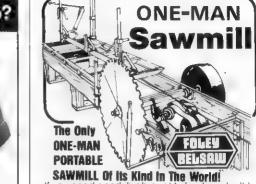
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Continued from page 43

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- Attention is called to the fact that the VFW National By-Laws provide for only one type of membership, that is active membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars There are no provisions in the National By-Laws nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Membership cards, Honor-Membership cards, Associate Membership cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or other special type of cards. Any Post Issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW By-Laws or Procedure.
- flict with VFW By-Laws or Procedure

  All VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, can be dangerous to the financial well-being of members of unincorporated Posts. Post officers and members' personal assets can be garnished to satisfy a judgment against the Post. Incorporating under the provisions of Manual of Procedure Article 708, and the laws of the state, will release members from individual financial responsibility and only the assets of the Post are then available to satisfy a judgment. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of incorporation must be approved by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities

  The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and
- The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and District Commanders, and Inspecting Officers is directed to Section 703. Manual of Procedure, Bonds Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand/in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.
- All officers should have current copies of National By-Laws, Department By-Laws and Rituals. Copies of the 1983 Revised Edition of the Constitution, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are now available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department, National Headquarters
- All Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual An Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure, Control of Units, requires any activity, unit or club sponsored, conducted or operated by a Post, County Council, District or Department be at all times under the direct control of the Post, County Council, District or Department as appropriate All Commanders should ensure that all of the provisions of Section 709 are enforced
- The attention of Department, District, County Council The attention of Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders is directed to Section 103, Manual of Procedure which prescribes the manner in which application for membership will be handled Application for membership of new, reinstating or transfer members must be voted on by the members present at a regular Post meeting. No Post, County Council, District, Department or National officer, or any other member, has authority to reject the application of a person who is authority to reject the application of a person who is eligible for membership

(See General Orders page 49)

### Montgomery Urges Action to Start **Agent Orange Study**

Rep. G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Miss.), of HVAC, has written HHS Secretary Richard S. Schweiker urging immediate contract negotiations between VA and HHS to get the long awaited Agent Orange study underway.

Chairman Montgomery said he is "pleased and optimistic" over the VA's decision to accept the House Veterans' Affairs Committee recommendation to allow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to take over the Agent Orange health effect study.

A letter to VA Administrator Robert Nimmo dated Sept. 27, 1982, and signed by Montgomery, Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt (Ark.), the Committee's minority member and Rep. Ronald Mottl (Ohio), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Hospitals and Health Care, cited as its reasons for recommending the switch, "criticism already leveled at the VA," because of difficulties in developing a scientific protocol for the Agent Orange study.

"I hope the contract agreement between the Veterans Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services will be reached without delay," Montgomery asserted.

Montgomery said the House Veterans' Affairs Committee was told last month by Dr. Vernon Houk, acting director of CDC's Environmental Health Center, during its most recent hearing on Agent Orange that, if he were responsible for the development of the Agent Orange protocol, he would get a group of experts together, put them in a room, and tell them not to come out until the job was done.

"I am anxious to see the Center perform at the level and speed suggested by their witness," Montgomery added.

In urging that the study be completed as quickly as possible, Montgomery stressed his intention, as Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, to "fulfill whatever obligations we may have based on the results of the Agent Orange epidemiology study."

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For Claims Assistance

ARMY 5th Air Force, 574th SAW Bn., Co. D, 5th Platoon (Austraila, New Guinea, Philippines).—Must contact anyone who served with me —Maurice H. Ragland, Rt. 3, Beaver Dam,

5th Arm. Div., 5th Sv. Bn. (Feb. 19, 1945, invasion of Iwo 5th Arm. Div., 5th Sv. Bn. (Fcb. 19, 1943), invasion of Iwo
Jima)—Seeking Marines inside div ammo dump when blown
up, destroyed by Japanese, former members remembering when
I hurt my back unloading 500-pound Marin oven and overseeing
Japanese work detail at Nagasaki, Japan, later was in 2nd Mar
Div field hospital—Elmer Patrick, 330 Atena St., Oak Hill, Ohio

9th Arm. Div. (Camp Polk, La.)—Anyone remember when I suffered mustard gas burns?—John W Robinson, 906 Skyllne Drive, Grandview, Mo. 64030
9th Div., 321st Med. Bn., Co. A.—Must contact former members for info regarding my behavior, troubles, actions, con-

9th Div., 321st Med. Bn., Co. A.—Must contact former members for info regarding my behavior, troubles, actions, condition, faults and time 1 spent in field hospital and for what reason and injuries, Stateside, South Pacific —Leonard A. Kansek, 8033 E. Ten Mile Road, Apt. 416, Center Line, Mich. 48015
28th Div., 110th Int., Co. F. (Battle of Bulge)—Sceking anyone who served with Leo P. Lefebvre during Bulge when he was captured, also Lr. Diamond, 1st Sgt Stephen Leavering and Bugdust Mahalek, who served with him.—Mary A Lefebvre, 45
Central Ave., North Adams, Mass 01247
31st Int., 1st Bn., Hq. Co., P&A Platoon (Korea, Pebruary, '53-March, '54, list Arm. Div., 16th Arm. Rag. Bn., Co. D. (May, '54-March, '55, Pt. Hood, Texas)—For record correction review—Leonard Carrico, 7908 S.E. Glencoe, Milwaukie, Ore. 97222
32nd Div. or 732nd Ord. (1945 or 1946)—Seeking anyone who served in either of these units, especially those having bone damage or breathing problems.—Rolle Anderson, S.O., Post 738, 406 Cottage St., Clare, Mich. 48617
50th 34g. Bn., Hq. Co. (Radio School), Tyler, Texas, '42-'43, Adv. Radio School, Camp Davis, S.C., '43, then Ft. Sheridan, Ill.)—Specifically, Walter Stahyra, Joe Panier, Frank Gregorash, Royce Quayle, my records lost in St. Louis fire, need more info for claim.—George V Loss, 695 Jackson St., St. Paul, Minn 55101

75th Div., 898 FA Bn.—Must contact anyone remembering Dingy Dowell, of Sv Battry.—Howell Cross, PO Box F, Lecanto, Fla 32661

102nd QM Bakery Co., 501st QM Bn. (Ft. Lee, Va.)-Anyone remember my involvement in machinery type accident?—William (Fuzzy) Pasano, 249 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale, Mass 02131

dentr—william (ruzzy) rasano, 249 Belgrade Ave., Roslindale, Mass O2131

185th Combat Engs., H&S Co.—Need to contact anyone emembering me in 1945.—Charleta A. (Cap the Painter) Parrish, 5514 Ballon Ave., Port Charlotte, Fla 33953.

299th Eng., (Near Duc Tho., Vietnam)—Explosion blew several men off a truck returning from mine sweep. Anyone remembering blast and injuries to Edwin Prentice, contact Service Officer Rolle Anderson, 406 Cottage St., Clar, Mich 48617

577 Eng. Bn. (C), Co. A., 18th Eng., Bgde. (Vietnam, 1970)—Must contact any who remember me getting injured on secondary crusher and std. scoop loader operator who lowered me from crusher, anyone else remembering me.—Ken (Crazy Jack) Clawson, PO Box 27556, Tempe, Arlz, 85282

398th AAA AW Bn. (SP), Battry, C, Hdq, Battry,—Coleman, Eisenhauer, of Battry, C, especially, anyone else remembering my back injury resulting from half-track accident, January, 1945, in France; anyone remembering my injuring my back while unloading personnel records, January, 1946, Bremerhaven, Germany—Jack D Curry, 1736 Wilhurst St., Jackson, Miss 39211

834th Engr. Avn. Bn., HQ Co.—Seeking those who served with the Arboney Miss and Parlow.

MBS 39211
834th Engr. Avn. Ba., HQ Co.—Seeking those who served with me.—Anthony Nisivoccia, 7 Tennis Pl., Nutley, N.J. 07110
936th FA, Battry, A, Ba. A (Korea, 1954)—Seeking anyone who remembers me—Royal D. Sillery, 409 E. Hanna St., Greenceste benefic factors. castle, Ind 46135

castie, ind 40135

Air Transport Command (Tripoli, Egypt, March 31, 1944-Nov. 4, 1945.)—Seeking anyone remembering my injury when truck transmission fell on my legs. A Sgt. Mallard and a Capt. Vance were in my group.—J. W. Ervin, 507 Linden Ave., Kinston, N. C. 28501

Kinston, N.C. 28501

Camp Miles Standish (January, 1944)—Need to contact persons with me when hit by car on post.—Al Kyle, 601 Yaupon Road, Panama City Beach, Fla. 32407

Maxton Air Base, S.C. (WWII)—Seeking complete address of Troop Carrier Command; my records destroyed in St. Louis fire; Col. E. P. Curry was base commander, Capt. Ernest Toombs commander, Sqdrn B.—Andrew Kosko, 40 Hamilton St., West Wyoming, Pa. 18644

WWII-734 R. Z., Northern France/Luxembourg, Feb. 21, 1945.—Must locate anyone remembering my back infury as

1945.—Must locate anyone remembering my back injury as result of jeep rollover, especially driver or male nurse who treated me.—Raymond F. Kadonsky, 8219 Cherry St., Stevens Point, Wis 54481

POW Camp (Palawan, P.I., January-July, 1944.)—Must contact W Budzak, Cleere, Smith, Bogue, anyone else with me at Palawan.—Charles F. Craig, 3516 Vimy Ridge Ave., Norfolk, Va 25509

MARINE CORPS

1st Mar. Div.-FMF, Fleet Hospital 110 on Beneca, Solomons—Need confirmation of hospitalization for operational fatigue.—Paul E Meyer, 2955 Grand Ave., Fort Myers, Fla. 33901. NAVY

NAVY
NMCB 121 (1967), Gulfport, Miss.—Must contact CEI Charlie Best, Phoenix, Ariz., BUJ Willie Williamson, Missouri, or persons knowing their whereabouts.—Herman L Keys, PO Box 543, Glasgow, Ky. 4214i.

USS Poote (DD511) (1942-1943)—Must contact anyone aboard the night, Nov. 3, 1943, when ship was torpedoed off Bougainville, Solomons.—Nicholas E Johns, Box 715, Danielson Conn. 06239.

son, Conn. 06239

(See Notices page 47)

#### Notices . . .

#### Continued from page 46

USS Ira Jeffrey (APD 44).—Need to contact Chief Pharm Mate John W. Craig, other pharm mate aboard, to verify my headwound on June 6, 1944 —Robert I. Babcock, RD 1, Box 106, Owego, N.Y. 13827

Owego, N.Y. 13827

USS Wasp (CVA-18) (1951-53)—Must contact Charles Klity, of Boston, Howard Spruill, of Baltimore, and R. C. Howell, of New York, others in 5-1 Div. and med dept remembering when I injured my back handling acetylene and oxygen bottled gases.—Clyde A: Tweed, 24 Swannaview Dr., Asheville, N.C.

Seeking Former Comrades

#### ARMY

ist Inf. Div., 18th Inf. Rgt., Co. H (August, 1944-January, 1946)—Like to hear from former members.—Ralph J Collins, Box 258, Sardis, Ohio 43946

Ist Inf. Div., 18th Inf. Rgt., 1st Bn., HQ Co., Comm. Pitn. (WWII)—Need to contact Vadon J McIlwain, Joe R Newton, others remembering me—Norman Shrawder, 20 Kings Blvd., Shillington, Pa 19607

Shillington, Pa. 19607

5th Cav., 2nd Recon. (Germany, 1957-58)—Need to contact Andy Reyna or anyone knowing his whereabouts.—George Bailey, 3019 N. Lee St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19134

7th Photo Recon. Grp., 13th, 14th, 22nd, 27th and 381st
Svc. Sqdrs. (Mount Farm, England, wWII)—Seek names and addresses of former members—Amos L. Ellerd, 1608 N. Vega Dr., Hobbs. N. M. 88240

84th BC., 301st Bamb Sade. (WWII)—Need to convact Paul

ega Dr., Hodds, NM, 88240 34th BG, 391st Bomb Sqdr. (WWII)—Need to contact Paul 1 Baber or anyone knowing his whereabouts —C W. Lux, 611-1E Main St. Palmyra, Pa 17078 36th Combat Engrs., Co. H (WWII)—Like to contact Bates

36th Combat Engrs., Co. H (WWII)—Like to contact Bates Lenardo Garcia, Joseph Cecala, Elmo P Martin, others Thomas J Sorrells, 1810 Alexander St., Staunton, Va. 24401 44th Div., 71st Inf. Rgt., Co. B (WWII)—Like to correspond with former members—Joseph J. Walle, 25151 Dequindre, No. 111, Madison Heights, Mich. 48071 44th Div., 156th FA, Btry. A.—Like to contact former members—Robert F Ballschmiede, 548 Reese, Dundee, Ill. 60118 52nd Military Govt. (Wonju, Korea)—Like to contact Lemate who was a professor at Purdue University, Nixon, Dixon others—Ray Shank, 43 Jackson St., Boscawen, N. H. 0,3503 64th Bn., Co. C. (IRTC, Camp Fannin, Texas, 1945)—Need to contact Bill Montgomery or anyone knowing his where abouts.—James E. Rogers, 1402 26th St., Hondo, Texas 78861 72nd FA Rgt. (Fort Bragg, N.C., 1941-42)—Need to contact former members—E. R. Horton, Rt. 1, Box 186, Timberlake, N. C., 27881

N C. 27885
90th Inf. Div., 358th Inf., Co. C (Germany, WWII)—Like
to hear from Lt Gentully, others with whom I served —Wood
row J Wilson, Rt. 2, Box 392, Bryson City, NC 28713.
94th Inf., 302nd Rgt., Co. D. (1944)—Need to contact
Donald J Opdycke who lived in Fort Wayne, Ind., or persons
knowing his whereabouts —Arthur A Johns, Rt. 3, Dillsburg
Pa. 17019

113th AAA Gun Bn. Assn. (WWII)—Seek to contact former members interested in receiving newsletter.—B. LaDuke, 6201 Hartel, Potterville, Mich. 48876

Harrel, Potterville, Mich 48876
147th Inf. Rgt., 1st Bn., HQ and C Cos. (1944-45)—Like to hear from former members—John W Darnell, 3029 Midvale Dr., Indianapolis, Ind 46222
21th AAA (AW) Bn., Btry. C—Need to contact Sam Mavriackus or anyone knowing his whereabouts.—William R Tennyson, 3516 Chestnut Ave. Baltimore, Md. 21211
303rd Sta. Hosp. (England, WWII)—Like to locate John Leopold of Wis, others—Eric Erickson, PO Box 114, Titusville, Pa 16354

381st BG (1944)—Like to contact former members of my crew—Roger Lapierre, PO Box 461, scobey, mont 59263.—483rd BG (Italy, WWII)

Need to contact John P. Kelly and Tommy F. Williams or anyone knowing their whereabouts.—Elmer H. Hester, 405 S. Gault Ave., Fort Payne, Ala. 35967

4053 Galif Ave., Fort Payrie, Ala 55907

517th Port Ba., Co. A (England, 1943-44)—Need to contact Gentile, Brines, Wolf, others who knew Edwin W. Arnolds or persons knowing his whereabouts—Kelly Six, 6285 Milarch

or persons knowing its whereabouts — Relly Six, 0289 Mularen
Rd, Manistee, Mich 49660
778th AAA Bn., Btry. C.—Like to contact former mem
bers.—Outs McElfin, Rt 3, Box 328A, Llvingston, Tenn. 38570
797th FA Bn., Btry. C (WWII)—Need to contact those with
whom I served.—William H Budreck, 1173 Susan Way, Sun
ryvale, Calif 94087
866th Engr. Avn. Bn. (WWII)—Like to contact Leonard H
Magna of Falmouth Valor persons knowing his where-

866th Engr. Avn. Bo. (WWII)—Like to contact Leonard H Magna of Falmouth, Va., or persons knowing his whereabouts—Leo F Hogan, 737 Phillips St., Galesburg, III 61401 Americal Div., 245th, 246th and 247th PA Bns. (WWII)—Need to contact former members—George R Ratchford, Rt. 3, Box 378, Gastonla, N. C. 28052.
Combat Engrs., X. Corps (Camp Maxey, Texas, 1943-44)—If your Co. commander's name was Irby, I'd like hearing from you.—R. E. Woolums, 212 Lewis Ct. N., George town, Ky. 40324.

town, Ky 40324

Eielson AFB, Alaska (1965-66)—Need to contact Bob and Loulse Gwyn who moved to Florida around 1966 —Eileen H Pope, 1031 Imperial Bivd, Apt. 41, Imperial Beach, Calif 92032

Llege, Belgium (1945)—Need to contact Tony Gryn or any one knowing his whereabouts

Bernard L. Kelly, 335 Webster St., Phillipsburg, N.J.

08865.—Seeking Former Shipmates

LSM 226 (1944-46)—Like to contact former members.— John J Quinn, Sr., 161 W Spring St , Apt B-3, West Haven, Coan 06516

LST 171 (WWII)—Wish to contact any of the doctors, corps-men or surgical team who served aboard from September 1943-January, 1945—Fred Schuelzky, 6501 Reed Rd., A-212, Fort Wayne, Ind. 46815

LST 221—Like to hear from former shipmates —Harold N Boyers, 412 Gregory Ave, Apt 1-A, Glendale Heights, Ill 60137

(See Notices page 49)

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The Bear is the first of a new class named for famous Coast Guard cutters.

will be installed in each cutter of this class, one in the command support center and the other on the bridge. The COMDACs will collect and coordinate data from numerous sources and display it in a variety of modes including 11 primary display monitors to assist ship's personnel in the performance of many functions. The functions and operations are paramount to the cutter's missions. They include maintaining current status of all contacts, development of maneuvering solutions, collision avoidance, navigation and piloting, internal communications, storage and retrieval of data, development of search and rescue patterns, fire control, anti-submarine warfare and even man overboard location.

The Bear and her class not only will be equipped with the COMDAC configuration but also will have other highly sophisticated electronics systems. These will include a variety of navigation and radar equipment, plus four cabinets of associated electronic gear.

(See Bear Returns page 54)

## **Recent Books**

#### Hardcover

Operation Chastise by John Sweetman, Jane's, 218 pages, \$19.95. Fact or fiction is the question posed about the RAF's attack on dams in western Germany in 1943.

The Embattled Confederacy. William C. Davis, editor, and Bell I. Wiley, senior consulting editor, Doubleday, \$39.95, 464 pages. Chock full of amazing and poignant pictures and clear, concise text, this is the third volume in the Image of War: 1861-1865 series

#### General Orders . . .

#### (Continued from page 44)

- The locations of the following Posts have been changed Post 1772 from Gonic to Rochester, N.H., Post 2851 from Port Clinton to Fremont, Ohio; Post 6099 from Florence to Union, Ky. Post 7679 from Sewell to Mantua, N.J.; Post 9697 from Fort Lauderdale to Davie, Fla., and Post 10140 from Temple Terrace to Tampa, Fla.
- from Temple Terrace to Tampa, Fla
  Charters for the following Posts have been authorized
  Post 645, South Amboy, N.J.; Post 2063, Crivitz, Wis;
  Post 3515, Colfax, La.; Post 3872, Atlanta, Ga. Post 4505,
  Lavaca, Ark.; Post 9689, Chun Chon, Republic of Korea.
  Post 1976, Ashiand, Neb.; Post 9989, Wymore, Neb.;
  Post 10042, Adams, Neb.; Post 10361, Farmington, Conn.;
  Post 10672, Hopkinton-Contococok, N.H.; Post 10673,
  Westmoreland, N.H.; Post 10674, St. Croix, Virgin
  Islands, Post 10675, Whitefield, N.H.; Post 10676, Lee,
  N.H., and Post 10677, Casper, Wyo
  By Command of
  JAMES R. CURRIEO
  Commander-in-Chlef
  FICIAL.

OFFICIAL Howard E Vander Clute, Jr. Adjutant General

#### NOTICES . . .

#### Continued from page 47

USS Amphion (AR-13, January-June, 1948)—Like to contact LTIG John F Praytor who served aboard the USS Whitley (AKA 91) as a 1st Lt (1948-49) or anyone knowing his where abouts, also like to her from RM2C EE Lee who served aboard the USS Wyoming (EAG-17) in C Div in May, 1947—Carl C Lincoln, 1010 (sabella Rd., Connetssyulle, Pa. 15425
USS ATA-201—Need to contact former members.—W F Williams, PO Box 66, Valley Center, Kansas 67147
USS Breton (CVE23, 1943-46)—Like to contact former members, especially those who worked in bake shop—Paul S Fulkerson, 1431 Irving, San Francisco, Calif 94122

Pulkerson, 1431 Irving, San Francisco, Calif 941c2 former ship-mates —C. G. Short, 33 Mil! Rd. North Hampton, N H 03862 USS Egeria (ARL-8, 1944-46)—Like to hear from former shipmates —Eugene L. Jones, 5049 Winsford Ct., Newark, Calif 94560

USS Mississippi (1938-41)—Like to contact Oscar Pinto of USS Mississippi (1938-41)—Like to contact Oscar Pinto of Lowell, Mass, or persons knowing his whereabouts.—Joseph R Wente, Rt. 1, Box 327, Arcadia, Ind. 46030
USS Pecos (A065), USS Thetis Bay (CVE90), NAS Ford Island abd YSD47—Need to contact former members —Norm Magin, 202 Danze Dr., No. B, San Jose, Calif 9511
USS Portland (WWII)—Need to contact William Matthews or anyone knowing his whereabouts—Claybourne 1. Ridgely, PO Box 184. Schereville, Ind. 46375
USS Release William. 2nd. Div. (WWII)—Like to contact.

USS Prince William, 2nd Div. (WWII)—Like to contact those with whom I served —Chauncey Evans, Rt. 4, Box 253 George Town, Del 19947

USS Sateriee (DD626, July 17, 1942-March, 1946)—Need to contact former members—John J Curley, 76 Ohver St., Avon Mass 02322

Avon Mass 02322
USS Tomahawk (A088)—Like to contact anyone who served—Jesse M Regan, Rt 2, Port Gibson, Miss 39150
USS Twiggs (DD591)—Like to contact former members who served before her sinking—Ray E Hackett, 356 Union Ave, Belleville, N.J. 07109

64th NCB, H-2 (1945)-Seek to contact George G O'Con-

or or anyone knowing his whereabouts —Clarence A Peters, Sr. 590 B. Adair St., Louisville, Ky. 40209

VMSB 141—Like to contact Victor L. Hammond or persons

knowing his whereabouts —Blake-Leftwich, Star Rt., Box 222, Columbus, Miss. 39701



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## **Community Service**



Retired Marine Gen. Christian F. Schilt, a Medal of Honor recipient, is feted on bis 87th birthday by Post and Auxiliary 3160.

Silver Awards of Excellence went to three Posts, while one District and seven Posts won Bronze Awards of Merit for their Community Activities endeavors.

The silver awards went to Posts 8911, Fort Worth, Texas; 3320, Marysville, Ohio, and 323, Stillwater, Minn.

Winning the bronze awards were Texas's District 21 and Posts 6874, Lemon Grove, Calif.; 3130, Warren, Mich.; 7175, Millington, Tenn.; 2775, Orange, Texas; 3160, Norfolk, Va.; 1881, Cheyenne, Wyo., and 3628, Riverton, Wyo.

Post 8911's was for conducting six fund raising projects for the Fort Worth State School for the Mentally Retarded. The Post and Auxiliary efforts realized \$5,000 for a security fence around the playground and other equipment to improve the school's facilities.

Post 3320 completed a \$12,000 memorial garden in Oakdale Cemetery in time for the 1982 Memorial Day program.

Post and Auxiliary 323 helped stage a five-day international youth hockey tournament for the sixth consecutive year in which U.S. and Canadian youths participate.

District 21 erected and manned an informational booth at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show, distributing 34,000 small American Flags, 17,150 pieces of literature on Americanism, Buddy Poppies, drug abuse, alcohol and safety at a cost of \$2,568.

Post and Auxiliary 6874 helped raise money for the purchase of two helicopters for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.

Post 3130 sponsored a dinner-dance honoring veterans of all wars, with special emphasis on Vietnam veterans. Assisting were its Auxiliary and Dads Post 97.

Post 7175 erected a permanent flag-(See Community Service page 51)

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE . . .

pole in Miles Park, with the assistance of Sons of the VFW-Unit 913.

Post 2775 and its Ladies Auxiliary raised almost \$5,000 to support the area's Little League baseball team and to replace facilities and equipment destroyed in a major fire.

Post 3160 honored retired Marine Gen. Christian F. Schilt, who received the Medal of Honor for bravery in Nicaragua and the Distinguished Service Medal during the Korean War, on his 87th birthday. He rose from private to four-star general.

Post 1881 aided in the sponsorship of the 1982 Wyoming Special Olympics for the handicapped and raised funds to help defray expenses by the recycling of aluminum cans.

Post 3628 and its Ladies Auxiliary held a pancake supper that raised funds for a "Quickie Saw" for the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department. The saw enables fire fighters to cut through dense material and reach the source of a fire more quickly.

Commander-in-Chief James R. (Bob) Currieo congratulated each of the winners, declaring that the work they have done exemplifies the VFW motto, "To Honor the Dead by Helping the Living," and emphasizes the theme of his leadership year, Strength Through Service.

#### HELPING . . .

Continued from page 14

names for consideration should contact their Department Headquarters. Nominations by the Department should be forwarded to the National Civil Service and Employment Committee, c/o Frederico Juarbe, Jr., Director, National Veterans Service, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, not later than March 15,

All Departments are encouraged to present awards to their own nominees with appropriate publicity and recognition at the Department Convention.

Only one nomination in any one category should be submitted for a national award.

The economic health of communities throughout the nation depends in part on the development and utilization of maximum skills of veterans.

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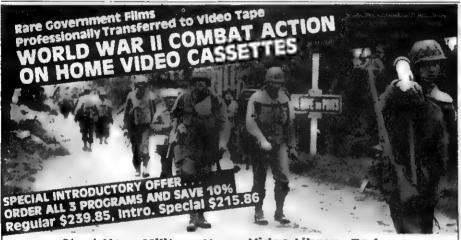
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#### BEAR RETURNS...

Continued from page 48

The navigation gear will use both loran-C and Omega (satellite) to achieve position accuracies unheard of before. They will carry exterior communications equipment involving 19 equipment cabinets and associated antennas. The interior communications equipment will include ship's phones, public address systems, intercoms, TV, recorders and the like. An automatic-acquisition target-tracking system will permit homing in on five targets at one time in the manual mode and 40 in the automatic. A Sperry collision avoidance system with possible area-of-danger and point-of-possible collision indicators will be aboard.

Finally, a Mark 92 gun fire control system to command the fully integrated Mark 75/76 mm gun system, with integral magazine will be installed on each ship. This is essentially the same fire control system that is used in the Navy's new frigates and patrol hydrofoils.

Although the Bear and her class will not exactly bristle with weapons as we understand them, she will have more firepower and combat equipment than any other ships in Coast Guard history.

Each new cutter will be able to serve as a helicopter platform and will handle all helicopters in the Coast Guard inventory, including the new 22,000-pound twin-engine HH-3F as well as the Navy's new Light Airborne Multi-Purpose System (LAMPS) helicopters.

The Bear and the Famous Class are intended to replace a number of older high and medium endurance cutters, some of which are fast approaching 40 years of age. As their description, WMEC-270, implies, they will be 270 feet long, 255 feet at the waterline. They will have a beam of 38 feet, a draft of 13.5 feet and will displace 1,732 tons. Top speed will be about 19.5 knots.

They will be powered by twin diesels generating 3,500 horsepower each and driving two 9-foot variable-pitch propellers. Another feature is the ships' finstabilization system which will permit helicopter operations in relatively high seas. Accommodations are designed for 140 people—17 officers, 15 chief petty officers and 108 enlisted crewmen. The peacetime complement is expected to be 109 personnel with 13 officers, 10 chiefs and 86 enlisted.

Bear and her class will be able to steam 400 miles from home port, patrol for 14 (See Bear Returns page 55)

#### Thank You America

Continued from page 37

sphere of a military hospital with perhaps a touch of federal bureaucratic indifference thrown in. That concept was pleasantly dispelled in an attitude of personal concern by the staff that extended from the admissions office to the check-in desk at the ward, a concern illuminated by an unusual degree of cheerfulness and enthusiasm.

Following a thorough medical examination by Drs. Teasley and Dobryns, a detailed discussion of the pending surgery and a trip downstairs for an EKG and a chest X-ray, my reporter's instincts took over. In bathrobe and slippers I padded down to the first floor director's office where public relations officer Gary Devansky took time out from a busy schedule to outline the scope of the medical center and provide some background. He pointed out that 738 beds were available, a full-time staff of 2,000, a parttime staff of 400, plus 1,300 volunteers from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, including VFW and Auxiliary members, who donated up to 190,000 hours of care each year.

During the last recorded fiscal year, 18,339 patients were treated, 4,389 surgical procedures performed, 564,763 prescriptions filled, over 3 million lab tests made, 90,000 X-rays taken, 222,923 outpatient visits accommodated and 736,000 meals served. The food, by the way, was very good.

(See Thank You America page 56)

#### **Bear Returns**

Continued from page 54

days and return to port with a 10% fuel reserve. For search and rescue missions they will be able to deploy at maximum speed to a search area as much as 400 miles away, search for five days and return with a disabled vessel in tow, if necessary.

The Bear has indeed returned. In time, she will be joined by a new Tampa, Harriet Lane, Northland, Seneca, Pickering, Escanaba, Legare, Argus, Tahoma, Erie, McCulloch and Ewing.

The pantheon of illustrious maritime names will once again carry the U.S. Coast Guard ensign on the seas of the world.

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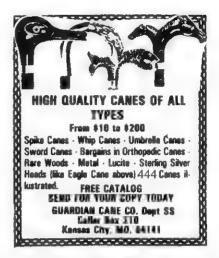
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#### Thank You America

Continued from page 55

Once a part of historic Fort Snelling, the present buildings were begun in 1921 under the old Veterans Bureau. Following World War II, the hospital was expanded in 1953.

The hospital, closely affiliated with the University of Minnesota Medical School, shares some of the nation's most advanced research facilities and a staff of 150 scientists and technicians. The relationship also provides a wide spectrum of residency and internship programs, plus training for nurses and laboratory personnel.

I asked Devansky if it would be all right to wander around the hospital, talk with personnel and patients, and get a general feeling of the scope of the programs. He said to go right ahead but not to take any photos of patients unless they agreed to a written release.

From the director's office, I travelled to the cafeteria, snack shop, chapel (Chaplains Leif Monson and Rueben Carlson later stopped by my bed for friendly visits), looked into several wards and talked with a number of patients. In addition to civilian casualties such as myself, the real wreckage of war was evident everywhere-men in wheelchairs, men with arms and legs missing, old men, young men, paraplegics and psychiatric patients, those for whom the wars had never ended. There were some female surgical cases, too, for-



Celebrities often drop in at the Minneapolis VA Center to visit with patients. Here Vicki Samuels, "Miss Snowflake" from the St. Paul Winter Carnival, stopped to talk with WW II veteran Harold Schroeder

#### Thank You America

Continued from page 56

mer servicewomen thankful that for a facility where they could go for treatment. I even invaded the spotless fifth floor kitchen where an excellent esprit de corps existed among cooks and dishwashers alike. The enthusiasm, efficiency and high morale which permeated the entire staff were no doubt major considerations when Medical Center director Dr. Dan E. Cooney was presented the Presidential Achievement Award by President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

My trip to the operating room ended with a speedy and successful repair of my hernia. The nurse trundled me back to Bed No. 40. During the next two days of convalescence, a series of nurses appeared, pleasantly and considerately administering an assortment of medications and assistance to the 16 patients in Ward 5-B. While recuperating, I was able to compare notes with a number of fellow vets including three in the nearest beds.

In these and other talks, an image began to emerge, one of the ordinary GI, the ordinary seaman. They were not the well-to-do who could afford comprehensive private medical plans. Almost without exception, they were still employed, earning their way, paying their bills, making do for themselves and their families but never getting very far ahead financially. They had come off the farms and out of the schools and factories when their nation called and now, in a time of need, they had come back to that nation for help. They were right out of the pages of Stars and Stripes—Willie and Joe-most of them several decades older, faces lined deeper, hair thinner and grayer. And they were all grateful to the hardworking hospital staff, the national veterans' organizations, the members of Congress and an appreciative nation which had cooperated to provide quality facilities and medical care for thousands of exservicemen who otherwise would probably have gone disastrously in debt or simply done without.

And since I was fortunate enough to have access to a segment of the nation's printed media, I promised those Willies and Joes that I would get their message back to the people who had made it all possible, a message which simply and sincerely says:

"Thank you, America. Thank you."

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915 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10010		

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# Never change a light bulb

You may never change a light bulb again! Just think, no need to buy bulbs, or climb on wobbly chairs or ladders. Now, a new scientific development extends bulb life and saves electricity, too.

It's called The Button.

The Button is a solid-state micro

chip diode. It converts AC current to DC current and extends the life of a bulb filament up to 100 times!

For example, a regular bulb rated for 750 hours would last for about 32 days if burned continuously. But, with The Button, that same bulb's life would be extended to 75,000 hours or 8 years. Less often used bulbs could last a lifetime! (Thomas Edison's winter home in Florida uses DC lighting. The original bulbs have been burning continuously since 1925 — and are still going strong!)

This amazing development works with any regular incandescent light bulb (not 3-way type). There is even a model for candelabra size bulbs. Just stick a Button to the bottom of a bulb and screw

into socket.

The results are amazing. Bulbs burn cooler, and give a softer less glaring light. You save up to 30% on electricity and just think of the money saved on light bulbs!

The Button is absolutely ideal for lights that run 24 hours a day like exit signs and security lights. (Don't replace them until 1990!) Major hotels, restaurants and corporations are already using The Button and saving considerably on maintenance costs.



The Button has no moving parts so there is nothing to wear out. All materials meet or exceed U.L. standards and each Button carries a 10-year warranty.

If you're sold on the idea of saving money, The Button comes in packages of 12 for \$29.95 (plus \$2.45 shipping and handling). If you're still a bit of a skeptic (or don't have 12 bulbs), order a package of six for only \$15.95 (plus \$1.50 shipping and handling). Either way, you're covered by Baystar's guarantee of satisfaction or your money back antee of satisfaction or your money back in 30 days. Be sure to specify candelabra

or regular size. Save bulbs, electricity and labor. Order The Button today

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#### SACRED TRUST...

Continued from page 37



Winter sports, like snowmobiling, are lots of fun, especially in central Michigan where the VFW National Home is located.

who are members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. The Home has always been a living example of the VFW's credo to "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living" and its purpose "to care for his widow and his orphan." VFW and Auxiliary members have supported the Home for 57 years through contributions to the annual Seals solicitation and Buddy Poppy sales, purchases of Life Memberships in the National Home, gifts of estates and other individual donations. Additional monies are provided through wise investment of endowment capital set aside by policy of the National Home Board of Trustees.

Existing side by side with the Residential Child Care Program and licensed by the Michigan Department of Social Services is the Natural Family Program.

This pioneeer idea has been revitalized and more clearly defined in the past year by Dr. Theodore H. Wilson III, Executive Director of the National Home. Through this program a needy single-parent family may be admitted to the National Home as a unit. Through professional counseling and supportive services, the parent and his or her children can learn to solve their problems more effectively and cope with the future in a positive manner.

With the support of today's membership, the dream of early VFW members is being kept alive in Eaton Rapids. Children nurtured at the VFW National Home have a chance in life they wouldn't have had otherwise. As they leave, they are ready to face the world and meet the challenges that lie VEW ahead.

#### Membership

Continued from page 16

## order of parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Sept. 30, 1982.

#### **NATIONAL AVERAGE 56.22%**

1	Alaska				٠							,	71.93
	Indiana .												
4	Maryland California												

5	Wisconsin	<b>01.44</b>
ě		61.40
7		61.21
8		60.92
9		60.57
10	Virginia	60.02
11	Colorado	58.50
12	Michigan	58.39
13	North Dakota	58.36
14	Ohio	58.07
15	South Dakota	58.05
16	Illinois	58.01
17	New Jersey	57.978
18	Wyoming	57.977
19	Texas	57.70
20		57.47
21	Nevada	57.24
22	New Mexico	57.13
23	Arizona	56.90
24		56.88
25	Mississippi	56.77
26	Oklahoma	56.752

Mah

27	Washington	56.750
28	Missouri	56.64
29	lowa	56.56
30	Florida	56.47
31	Montana	55.34
32	District of Columbia	54.85
33	Pacific Area	54.76
34	West Virginia	54.04
35	Vermont	53.83
36	Arkansas	53.18
37	North Carolina	53.13
38	New York	53.10
39	Idaho	52.97
40	Hawaii	52.85
41	New Hampshire	52.48
42	Delaware	52.44
43	Oregon	52.14
44	Panama Canal	51.96
45	Massachusetts	51.71
46	Pennsylvania	50.49
47	Connecticut	50.39
48	Georgia	50.15
49	Kentucky	49.81
50	Tennessee	46.54
51	Utah	45.60
52	Alabama	44.03
53	South Carolina	43.49
	Germany	28.72
2101	watering transfer to the contract of the contr	



New officers of Post 10674 on St. Croix are Sr. Vice Commander Hugh Moore, Commander Sam Baugh and Jr. Vice Commander Luis E. Garcia.

Magnificent Antique-

Finish

To introduce the Heritage Collection of State Spoons To introduce the Heritage Collection of State Spoons.

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We also include the spoons that hency the states of Connecticut and Delaware, sent strictly on approval—to examine for ten days. If not delighted, return without further obligation. The District of Columbia spoon is yours Ires. If you keep the two spoons, you may enroll nour Collectors Program to acquire the other spoons of the Collection.

ilon, three at a time by mail, and pay half the \$6.00 price you would pay if you purchased the spoons individually. So send for your free spoon loday. Enclose 25¢ to partially cover postage, handling and insurance. Offer is timited to adults, one spoon per household. Allo 4 weeks for delivery.

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These symptoms indicate you may have knee cap degeneration. This disorder is a common problem, regardless of age, occupation and athletic or leisure activity.

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Circumference Below Knee Cap Size X-Small Below 10" Small Over 101/2-121/2" Over 121/2-141/2" Med Large Over 141/2-161/2" X-Large Over 161/2" If in doubt, send

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Strap includes information and wearing instructions Canadian Pat. #48053 - U.S. Pats. 4334528 & D265,590 AVAILABLE IN SOME MED/SURG. SUPPLY STORES

## posts of 1,000 members or more

	F	tecorded as of Oct. 7, 1982	
	Post		982
Place	No.		bership
1	1114	Evansville, Indiana	2967
3	3579		1671
3	1308	Alton, Illinois	1626
4	628	Sioux Falls, South Dakota	1596
5	47		1584
4 5 6 7	131		1360
7	360		1317
8	5555		1286
9	49		1258
10	2290	Manville, New Jersey	1256
11	1064	Huntington, West Virginia	1249
12	1146	Saint Clair Shores, Michigan	1215
13	367	Joliet, Illinois	1191
14	1273	Rapid City, South Dakota	1191
15	6640	Metairie, Louisiana	1188
16	1296	Bloomington, Minnesota	1184
17	4372	Odessa, Texas	1135
18	6704	Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania	1131
19	1599	Chambersburg, Pennsylvania	1122
20	2100	Everett, Washington	1117
21	401	Albuquerque, New Mexico	1116
22	1989	Indiana, Pennsylvania	1091
23	6506	Rosedale, Maryland	1086
24	6240	Russell, Kansas	1085
25	2539	Gulfport, Mississippi	1084
26	969	Tacoma, Washington	1058
27	6975	Bristol, Virginia	1058
28	9619	Morningside, Maryland	1056
29	249	Butier, Pennsylvania	1054
30	379	Yakima, Washington	1052
31	2199	Joliet, Illinois	1027
32	5632		1020
33	1810	Brentwood, Pennsylvania	1019
34	1621	Janesville, Wisconsin	1001

## national aidesde-camp recruiting class

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of September, 1982. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of a least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

William L. Camp, Jr., Post 3935, Port Hueneme, Calif.; Joe Spoon, Post 4865, Ardmore, Okla.; Vincent Favata, Post 2397, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Donald Cunningham, Post 7591, Madison, Wis.

TRY V.F.W.



William J. Mitchell Temps, Arizona

#### \$4,000 a Year

Think the world of my Sharp-All. Am now grossing about \$4,000 a year part time, and hope to expand shortly. Now doing work for the State of New York, Carrier Corp., and General Motors."

Lawrence Stevens E. Syracuse, New York 13957

#### Wanted to Retire

"I had dreamed of retiring for years, but was afraid to quit my salaried job. I had never used this type of equipment. but the Sharp-All was real easy to learn. I sharpened 30 blades my first week without advertising at all. Now, for the first time in my life, I can say that I am content." Farris Cornelius Wellington, Texas 79095

#### Had to Quit His Job

Bought my Sharp-All four years ago. and it has done everything (and more) that you said it would. I never sharpened a saw in my life, but when I had to quit my regular job. I knew I had to have something to do. Now I have more work than I am able to do - I have as many as 100 saws ahead of me at a time."

Frank Sartin Grandview, Washington 98930

#### \$32.00 in 2 hours

"There's always work in a sharpening business of your own if you want it . . . Yesterday, I made \$32.00 in two Dave Fl. Lewis Hoquiam, Washington

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Address		
City	State	Zip

## **VA Awards Contracts** For Health Care Units' Construction

Three VA construction contracts have been announced for Tucson. Ariz.; Wichita, Kans., and Togus, Maine.

All three are for health care facilities. The VA has awarded an \$11.3 million contract for a two-story 100,000square foot clinic addition to its medical center in Tucson, Ariz.

The contract went to L. G. Lefler, Inc., doing business as DEFCO, of 3130 Grant Road, Tucson.

The project consists of a stuccofinished steel framed building with an unfinished 50,000-square foot hasement.

Included will be a solar hot water system and energy saving light fixtures.

Remodeling work also will be done in the radiology and renal transplant departments of the hospital, and to a 30-bed nursing unit and a drug dependence treatment clinic at the medical

VA officials said the contract calls for completion of the project within 950 calendar days after receipt of a notice to proceed, which is expected to be issued shortly.

The VA has awarded a \$3,250,000 contract to the C. L. Fairley Construction Co. of Kansas City, Kans., to construct a 60-bed nursing home care unit at the VA Medical Center in Wichita. Kans.

The contract covers all general construction, alterations, roads, grading, mechanical and electrical work and kitchen equipment and utility systems.

VA selected the project under the Small Business Administration's program for disadvantaged firms. The contract calls for completion of the project in early 1984.

A \$2,092,790 small business contract has been awarded the Shostak Construction Co., of Augusta, Maine, to renovate and alter a psychiatric building at the VA Medical and Regional Office Center at Togus, Maine.

Shostak Construction, an equal opportunity minority employer, is scheduled to complete the project by April, 1984. V/=W



#### **NEW MAGNETIC** PADLOCK

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New Natural Way To Sleep **Pure Cotton Knit** 

Tee-PJ's resemble a T-shirt, but over a foot longer. Special knit gives when you move, eases up when you retax. No bind, no bunch, no chafe, no buttons no ironing! Most comfortable sleeper you've ever worn or money back (Great for Ladies, too). Choose snow white or soft blue. S-M-L-XL (to ensure best fit include heightweight when ordering.) Order while prices include postage/handling!

3 for \$28 \$12 88. Long sleeve style (not shown) \$15 ea 3 for \$38 WITTMANN TEXTILES
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### COLD WEATHER PROTECTION SUIT

New, Lightweight Polymer Material Retains Body Heat as Wind & Water "Bounce" Off It!

The Therm-All Suit is the perfect answer to really cold days and shivering, sleepless nights. Minutes after you slip into it, your body will be bathed in soft, glowing warmth. The 2-piece Therm-All Suit is attractively contoured and full bodied for maximum wearing comfort. designed to have a soothing effect against aches caused by cold, dampness and rapid temperature drop.

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SAVE ON HEATING COSTS while wearing your Therm-All Suit, you can lower your thermostat or even shut it off completely and still stay as warm as you wish to be. You could save hundreds of dollars, year after year on heating bills.

THE SECRET OF THE THERM-ALL SUIT The material

used in Therm-All Suits is a light-weight, strong polymer plastic that seals in your natural body heat weight, strong polymer pastic that seals in your natural body heat while it keeps cold and wind out. The around neck plus elastic round waist, wrist and ankles insure snug fit. Tested and proven by tens of thousands of satisfied users.

A SIZE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

There's no need to be locked in-doors during the coldest of days. Take your family with you to all out-door sports, camping, hiking, snownobiling, etc. Therm-All Suits are available in small, medium and large sizes, for every member of the family.

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Sturdy construction will stand up under numerous washings. No shrinking, no fading. Should last for



UNCONDITIONAL 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ou must be completely satisfied every way, with your Therm-Al lits. If not, return them within 30

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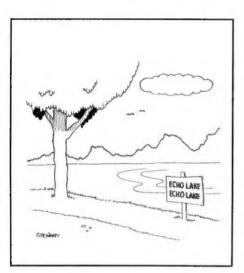
# Jest-a-minute



"Eat your breakfast. You want to grow up to be a free agent don't you?"

Some Love Nest

A husband told a judge in Yugoslavia that he wanted a divorce because his wife did bird impressions. "Your Honor," he explained, "from the day we were married this woman has watched me like a hawk.'



Reasonable Request

On one really foggy morning in the control tower over a small naval air station in the mid-Pacific, a pilot desperately asked the air traffic controller to turn up the runway lights.

"Are you crazy?" the controller asked.
"You'll have to go to the other base, over
100 miles north of us, if you want to land. We aren't allowing any planes to land on our field," the controller concluded.

"I don't want to use the runway lights to land," said the pilot, "because we're already on the ground. I want to use the lights to find the hangar!!!

-Wooden Barrel, Quote

What Lungs!

"Pilot to control tower! Pilot to control tower! I'm coming in. Please give me landing instructions." landing instructions.

'Control tower to pilot! Control tower pilot! Why are you yelling so loud?"
"Pilot to control tower! I don't have a

-Ouote



"Eat your spinach so you'll grow big and strong enough to refuse it!"



"It's a very tricky operation, but I'm willing to risk it!"

Sounds Suspicious

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, starting out on a speaking tour, delivered his initial address to the men's club of a large church. He told several new and witty anecdotes but asked the reporters present not to include them in their stories because he wanted to use them again at future meetings. A local newspaperman gave a good concise summary of the meeting and concluded with, "The bishop told several good stories, none of which, unfortunately, can be repeated."

-Funny Funny World, Quote



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Soft, thirsty, flower-garden fresh, Now your bathroom will look like sunny summertime every day of the year. Luxury Bath Set features crispy whites strewn with daisies . . . plus



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If you don't love them—Send them back! You must be completely pleased in every way with your "Daisy Delight" 20 Pc. Bath Set. If not, simply return for prompt, full refund of purchase price (except postage and handling). Our policy is to process all orders promptly. Credit card orders are processed upon credit approval. Delays notified promptly. Shipment guaranteed within 60 days.

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Yes! Please rush	"Daisy	Delight" 20-Pc.
Decorator Bath Ensemble(s) (2		
below, on Full Money Back	Guarante	e. AND please
enclose my Free Gift (Z545111	X) with	my order.
COLOR CHOICE:		*

\_\_ Qty. 🗆 Blue \_\_\_\_ Qty. 🗆 Pink \_ Gold

 One Bath Ensemble for only \$19.88 plus \$2.95 heavyweight postage and handling.
 □ SAVE! TWO Bath Sets—40 pieces in all—for only \$38.00 plus \$5.00 heavyweight post. & hdlg. \_(PA residents add sales tax)

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